

Jordan Times

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Leftists claim anti-NATO ships attack
LISBON (R) — A left-wing Portuguese guerrilla group has said it carried out Monday's unsuccessful grenade attack on NATO warships in Lisbon port, which officials said appeared to be part of a Europe-wide campaign of violence against NATO. The FP-25 group made the claim in telephone calls to international news agencies and also claimed responsibility for a similar grenade attack on NATO's Iberian headquarters in Portugal last month. A Portuguese navy spokesman said three grenades were fired early Monday at warships belonging to NATO's standing force in the Atlantic which were anchored at Lisbon's Alcantara dock. He said the grenades fell harmlessly in the water some 100 metres short of the nearest ship. They were apparently fired from a launcher in a garden near the dock. The Portuguese navy spokesman said he believed Monday's action was probably linked in a series of recent strikes attributed to left-wing guerrillas against NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) targets in Europe. A NATO spokesman declined to comment on Monday's attack.

Frischenschlager recalled home

CAIRO (R) — Austrian Defence Minister Friedhelm Frischenschlager, under criticism at home over his controversial reception of a former Nazi war criminal, Monday cut short a visit to Cairo and flew home, the Austrian embassy said. An embassy spokeswoman said she could not give an explanation for the minister's abrupt departure. Mr. Frischenschlager, who arrived on Saturday for a three-day official visit, met President Hosni Mubarak in the morning and was scheduled to visit military installations outside Cairo in the afternoon. He was also due to hold a press conference Tuesday. A spokesman for Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz said in answer to an enquiry in Vienna that the chancellor had asked Mr. Frischenschlager to ensure he was back in Austria for Tuesday's weekly cabinet meeting. Mr. Frischenschlager stirred up controversy at home and abroad after meeting former SS Major Walter Reder, who was released from an Italian prison last Thursday.

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Senate debates customs law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The legal and financial committees at the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) resumed Monday the discussion of a customs provisional law during a meeting presided over by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, gave no details of the discussions which were attended by Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Director General of the Income Tax Department Salim Tarawneh. Mr. Lawzi also called the Senate for a session to be convened on Tuesday.

Baghdad to host Arab labour talks

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The 13th Arab labour conference will be held here on March 4 to discuss the strategy of Arab labour force development, issues concerning the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the setting of an agenda for the 14th conference. Six hundred representatives of governments, employers and workers will also discuss resolutions adopted by previous Arab labour conferences and a memorandum on the forthcoming International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference to be held in Geneva during June 1985.

Arafat arrives in South Yemen

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has arrived in Aden for talks with South Yemeni leader Ali Nasser Muhammad expected to centre on the revival of Yemeni mediation among Palestinian factions, Palestinian sources said. The visit comes after reports from Damascus that Syrian-backed opponents of the PLO leader may set up a new Palestinian "national front." Aden has attempted to reconcile the rival PLO factions but so far without success.

Peres to visit Italy, Romania

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres will visit Italy and Romania in February, the prime minister's office said Monday. An assistant to Mr. Peres' spokesman said Mr. Peres would meet Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Italian Premier Bettino Craxi during the trip, but she said the exact list of meetings was not yet finalised. Mr. Peres is due to leave for Italy on Feb. 18 and spend two days in each country, she added, speaking on condition she was not identified.

Shots fired at Israeli bus

TEL AVIV (R) — Unidentified men fired shots and threw stones at an Israeli bus in the occupied West Bank Sunday but caused no injuries, Israeli Radio said. The vehicle was on its way from the coastal plain to the town of Immanuel, about 30 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv. Troops sealed off the area and launched a search.

Hussein: Time is short to reach solution King voices optimism over Reagan role in Mideast peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed optimism that U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in his second term in office, will be more able to help the cause of peace in the Middle East, but warned that time was short to reach a comprehensive settlement.

In an interview with the U.S. PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) Television, the King said that he hopes to visit the U.S. within a few months but that he had no definite plans for the trip yet. The interview with PBS was shown on Jordan Television last night.

On the Palestinian scene, the King said: "We hope we can put our thoughts and ideas together to present them to our brethren the Arab leaders who are visiting Washington. Hopefully they can take these thoughts to the U.S."

Asked whether he was optimistic that the second Reagan administration would be more able of being helpful, the King said he was very hopeful for many reasons. "We hope this will be the case, for there is no much time. The problem is as acute as it has ever been."

On his planned visit to the U.S., the King said: "I hope very much indeed to visit the U.S. before too long. I have no definite plans at the moment, but probably within a matter of the next few months."

Resistance forces escalate ambushes

Israelis seal off S. Lebanon after killing child in attack

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli troops Monday sealed off South Lebanon to Beirut-based reporters as security sources in the region said the Israelis fired on a carload of eight children, killing a three-year-old girl.

The child was among at least four people killed and eight injured — including her father — in a rash of incidents throughout the south during the night and morning. Four attacks were also reported on Israeli troops in which at least three were wounded, the sources said.

Reuter correspondent Alistair Lyon was turned back twice by Israeli troops as he tried to reach South Lebanon from Beirut to report on Israeli preparations for an imminent troop pullout from the Sidon area.

A captain at the mountainous Bateer crossing said orders were received Sunday to stop journalists going south. At the coastal Awali River crossing near the city of Sidon, a soldier told Lyon the ban would last two weeks.

The Israelis, preparing to leave Sidon by Feb. 18 in the first stage

of a three-phase pullout, have suffered 92 attacks throughout South Lebanon this month and their militia allies have come under attack 60 times, security sources said.

They said Monday's attacks brought Israeli casualties in January to three dead and 24 wounded, while the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) and other pro-Israeli militias and their agents had lost 18 killed and 16 wounded.

"The south is very tense. There are shooting incidents all the time," a security source said.

The three-year-old girl and her father, who were not identified, were shot at 7.30 a.m. (0530 GMT) at an Israeli checkpoint near the village of Bourj Ash-Shamali east of the southern port of Tyre, the sources said. Israeli troops said the carload of children failed to stop at the checkpoint, they added.

Most of the known casualties, however, occurred in Sidon, where tension is increasing as the Israelis prepare to leave.

Security sources said two people were killed and one wounded

when SLA troops opened fire at random on cars moving through the streets Sunday night after a rash of attacks on SLA positions in Sidon Sunday.

Another Sidon man was injured and his 16-year-old son killed when unidentified gunmen fired on their car during the morning, the sources added.

Other incidents reported by security sources were: — An Israeli patrol was ambushed at Qasbiye bridge east of Tyre at 7.30 a.m. (0530 GMT). Israeli military sources said a roadside bomb had exploded, wounding two Israeli soldiers.

— SLA and Israeli troops were ambushed at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) near Deir Qanoun An Nahr village, near Tyre, after they dismantled an SLA checkpoint and were leaving the area.

— Two Israeli armoured vehicles entered Bazzouriyeh village east of Tyre at 11.30 a.m. (0930 GMT) after several commando attacks in recent days, opening fire twice and wounding two villagers. The sources said they exchanged insults

(Continued on page 3)

Lebanese cabinet crisis eases after Hoss retracts resignation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's political crisis eased Monday as Education Minister Selim Al Hoss withdrew his resignation, and the government prepared to tackle a host of problems including a crisis of confidence in the Lebanese pound.

Mr. Hoss's decision to stay on, announced by Prime Minister Rashid Karami after midnight, ended two days of uncertainty about the future of the nine-month-old "national unity" government.

It partly eased pressure on the cabinet, which is trying to prepare an army force to head off sectarian fighting in South Lebanon when Israeli troops begin their pullout next month, while seeking ways to bolster the shaky Lebanese pound.

Tension in the south erupted in a rash of shootings Monday in

which at least four people died and 10 were injured. At least five Israeli soldiers were wounded in four separate attacks by resistance fighters.

The cabinet was meeting, meanwhile, with Mr. Hoss present, to seek ways to strengthen the economy and bolster the pound after it fell more than 10 per cent against the dollar on Friday in less than two hours trading.

The pound recovered Monday to close at 10.65 compared with Friday's low of 12.25 to the dollar, but there was no word on what measures the government might take to stabilise its recovery.

Mr. Hoss stayed in the government under pressure from Mr. Karami, cabinet colleagues, Muslim leaders and Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, who told him the situation was too

critical for anyone to resign. Indicating that the nine-man government might have collapsed if Mr. Hoss had departed, Mr. Karami said its members had agreed from the start on collective responsibility.

"Our entry together (in the government) imposed that we continue collectively or leave collectively," Mr. Karami said. "On this basis, agreement was reached... to pursue the national mission given to us."

Mr. Karami said he had rejected Mr. Hoss's resignation from the start, despite sympathising with his reasons, because the government must stand or fall as a collective unit.

"On this basis, agreement was reached at (last night's) meeting to pursue the national mission given to us," the prime minister said.

Hussein, Fahd exchange messages

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a message to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in reply to a message sent to him by the Saudi leader.

The Saudi message to King Hussein was delivered to him by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal who paid a brief visit to Amman Monday. Prince Saud, who left after attending a lunch hosted by King Hussein, also carried with him the Jordanian message to King Fahd.

King Hussein's message to King Fahd dealt with the points of view on current developments in the Arab arena and ways to restore Arab solidarity to serve higher Arab interests and coordinate Arab stands on decisive issues, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. It added that the message also dealt with ways and means to strengthen Jordanian-Saudi cooperation.

The King's meeting with Prince Saud was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abn Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Sultan.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and senior officials received Prince Saud upon his arrival and later saw him off.

Before his meeting with King Hussein, Prince Saud told Petra that the Saudi message dealt with Middle East problems within the context of continuous exchange of views between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Responding to a question on the Saudi efforts exerted for holding a long-delayed Arab summit, Prince Saud said: "No date has been set for convening an Arab summit but there are efforts exerted by sincere Arab parties to provide the proper climate for such a summit to confront challenges facing the Arab Nation."

Weinberger, Rabin hold talks on U.S. arms aid

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger Monday met Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin for talks expected to try to resolve differences over U.S. arms aid to Israel in 1986.

Israel is seeking \$2.2 billion in military grants, but the Reagan administration is ready to offer only \$1.8 billion, administration officials said.

The sources said Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Rabin were expected to try to set a new arms aid figure.

Israel's request for 1986 is \$800 million over the figure for this year.

In addition to Mr. Weinberger, Mr. Rabin and his aides are to meet the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Vessey.

The Rabin-Weinberger talks continue discussions they had when Mr. Weinberger visited Israel last October for talks that included both arms sales and Israeli "defence strategies."

Officials said that whatever level of aid President Reagan and Mr. Weinberger finally approved for Israel, it was likely to have an effect on proposed aid to Egypt, officials said.

Since the Camp David accords in 1979 between Egypt and Israel, the United States has sought roughly to balance military aid to the two nations.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday confers with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal who delivered a message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to King Hussein. The meeting was also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Sharaf resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf has submitted her resignation and His Majesty King Hussein accepted her resignation, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The news agency said a Royal Decree was issued Monday accepting the resignation.

It did not give any reason for Mrs. Sharaf's resignation.

Mrs. Sharaf, widow of the late Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, was appointed information minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat in January 1984.

Mrs. Sharaf also served as a member in the National Consultative Council (NCC), which was dissolved in late 1983 prior to the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan.



Laila Sharaf was dissolved in late 1983 prior to the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan.

Minister confirms possible cut in OPEC base price

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers eloped openly Monday in an emergency meeting that one official said was considering a cut in OPEC prices.

Less than an hour after the conference started in a Geneva hotel the oil minister of the United Arab Emirates walked out, complaining that Nigeria was "stabbing OPEC in the back" by breaking its rules.

Ahmad Zakai Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, said later the incident was sparked by a "misunderstanding" between UAE Minister Mana Saeed Oteiba and the Nigerian minister, Tam David-West. The Nigerian ref-

used to discuss the incident. Later, the oil minister of Qatar, Abdul Aziz Al Thani, said when asked if the ministers were considering a cut in the OPEC base price of \$29 a barrel.

"We're thinking about, as a concept, lowering it," he said. He declined to specify any figures under consideration.

The conference was recessed shortly after Mr. Oteiba left the hotel. It resumed in the late afternoon without Mr. Oteiba, although about an hour and a half later he went back into the meeting, saying only that his dispute with the Nigerian minister was "over, and I don't want to go back in it."

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U.N. chief in Hanoi

HANOI (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Hanoi Monday from Vientiane to try to breathe new life into stalled negotiations on the Kampuchean conflict.

The U.N. chief was taken directly from the airport to a government guest house in the centre of the city for the first of his two rounds of talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

Mr. Thach told Mr. Perez de Cuellar in the presence of reporters that he hoped the 48-hour visit in Hanoi would contribute to peace and stability in the region.

The formal discussions between the two officials will centre on Vietnam's six-year-old occupation of Kampuchea in defiance of U.N. resolutions calling for an unconditional withdrawal of Hanoi's 160,000 to 180,000 troops.

Before arriving on his peace mission to Hanoi, Mr. Perez de Cuellar paid a two-hour visit to Vientiane, where he had talks with Laotian Foreign Minister Phoune Sipraseuth.

Francois Giuliani, spokesman for the secretary-general, said discussions in Vientiane dealt largely with Kampuchea and the issue of U.S. servicemen reported missing in action in Laos.

Iraqis launch 'lightning' offensive against Iranians

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday its forces had launched a "lightning" three-pronged dawn offensive against Iranian positions on the Gulf war front, apparently in Iranian-occupied territory near the Iraqi city of Basra.

The thrust, announced by a military spokesman in Baghdad, was the first by the Iraqis in many months in an area where the Iraqis have been entrenched for the past year.

It turned the focus of the 52-month-old war back to the ground fighting after recent Iraqi claims, almost daily, to have hit merchant ships in the waterway itself.

The Iraqis said their warplanes hit two "targets" in the Gulf at 1500 GMT Sunday and a Greek tanker, the 97,688-ton Serfos, reported it had been hit by a missile at that time.

The vessel's captain, Elifherios Fragoulis, told Reuters by ship-to-shore radio that he had no idea where the missile came from. But shipping officials around the Gulf said it was almost certainly an Iraqi air strike, probably with an air-to-surface Exocet missile fired from a position far out of sight of the ship.

Baghdad Radio interrupted its normal programmes at 2.30 p.m. (1130 GMT) Monday to broadcast the military spokesman's announcement. He said many Iranian troops had been killed and that the Iraqis had captured a number of Iranian positions.

The spokesman referred only to "the southern sector" of the war front, which covers an area north and east of Basra. Iraq's major Gulf port before the war broke out in September 1980. Diplomats in the Gulf said it appeared likely that if the Iraqis had entered Iranian territory, they would have said so.

Iraqi troops have occupied Iraqi territory in the area, mostly marshlands but some of it known to be sitting on significant oil reserves, since a major Iranian thrust in February last year.

The Iraqis had tanks and heavy artillery within range of Basra and the Iraqis have accused their enemy often of shelling the city.

Meanwhile, the air attack on the Serfos brought to six the number of vessels confirmed hit in the Gulf this year. More than 50 vessels were hit last year after Iraq extended the war into the waterway in March. The Iranian air force has also hit a number of vessels after starting to retaliate last May.

The Serfos was hit soon after leaving the Saudi Arabian oil terminal at Ras Tannurah, although she was unladen, for Kuwait. The Iraqis have rarely struck so far south but Gulf shipping officials said they recently began using new French-made F-1C Mirage fighters which give them longer range.

The officials said it was unlikely the Iraqis had deliberately targeted a vessel between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The attack was just after nightfall whereas Iranian air attacks have generally been in daylight. Captain Fragoulis told Reuters his crew of 27 Greeks and six others escaped unharmed. "There was a flash on the starboard side. Seconds later, it exploded. I did not see what attacked us," he said.

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Egypt, Israel resume talks amid promises of new ideas

BEERSHEBA, Israel (R) — Egyptian and Israeli negotiators Monday started their second round of talks on the disputed Sinai coastal strip of Taba after both sides promised to come to Monday session with new ideas.

The negotiations, the first in two years, aim at finding common ground on the issue of security in the tiny beach area whose national status was left unresolved when Israel withdrew from the Sinai Desert in 1982.

No progress was reported in Sunday's first round between Foreign Ministry officials from both countries. The session is to end Tuesday, with further talks scheduled to be held at Ismailiya in Egypt.

Egyptian delegation chief Abdul Halim Badawi, a senior Foreign Ministry official, said in his opening statement that Egypt was determined to improve its relations with Israel.

But he objected to the sta-

tioning of Israeli police in Taba, saying it violated an agreement reached in April, 1982 when Israel handed back the rest of the Sinai peninsula under a 1979 peace treaty between the two countries.

Although Badawi reiterated that Cairo considered Taba Egyptian, the talks are dealing only with an interim arrangement and not directly with sovereignty.

Israel and Egypt agreed in 1982 to bring in a contingent of the Multinational Force of Observers (MFO) to provide security in Taba, a narrow strip of sand on which the Israelis have built a luxury hotel and a beach club.

But they disagree on the definition of security. Egypt wants

the MFO to provide law and order, whereas Israel wants to keep its police there and have the international force play a more general role.

The leader of the Israeli delegation, Zvi Kedari, a senior Foreign Ministry official, said he hoped the talks would produce a fresh beginning for a broader dialogue.

Israeli politicians are divided over whether Cairo really wants to improve relations or whether Taba has served as a pretext for not returning its ambassador to Tel Aviv and generally keeping Israel at a distance as Egypt works its way back into the Arab fold.

Relations between the two countries have been cool since Israel invaded Lebanon in June, 1982.

Cairo withdrew its envoy and said improved ties depended on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and Taba and better conditions for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.



SAUDI PRINCE IN PARIS: French Premier Laurent Fabius (left) and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz review the French Gendarmes Honour Guard at Orly Airport Monday after the arrival of the Saudi prince in France for a three-day official visit (AP wirephoto)

Bomb explodes in Ashdod

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A small bomb placed among cooking gas bottles next to an apartment building blew up Monday in the southern port town of Ashdod, shattering windows but causing no injuries, police said.

An Israel Radio broadcast received in Amman said several young Palestinian Arabs from the city were arrested.

Meanwhile Palestinian citizens in occupied Gaza Strip and Galilee in northern Palestine protested strongly against Israeli authorities' removal of their olive and fruit trees.

In two cables to Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin they protested against the removal of trees from a 2000 dunum area in Gaza Strip and 80 dunums in Galilee.

Saudi crown prince starts visit to France

PARIS (R) — Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia arrived in Paris Monday for three days of talks with French leaders expected to focus on ways of resolving Middle East conflicts.

He was welcomed at Orly Airport by Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, with whom he was expected to have a first round of talks before attending a dinner at the French External Relations Ministry.

Prince Abdullah, on his first official visit to France, is also due to meet President Francois Mitterrand and External Relations Minister Roland Dumas and to attend a reception given by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, a leading figure in the right-wing opposition.

French officials have underlined the importance of the visit by assigning to Prince Abdullah a residence normally reserved for heads of state or government and by scheduling a rare visit to the headquarters of France's Strategic (nuclear) Air Command.

The two countries have important trade ties, notably in the defence sector, but French officials have said the focus of the talks will be on political affairs.

The prince set an encouraging tone for the talks in a recent interview with L'Evenement, a French weekly magazine, in which he praised the "positive neutrality" of France on Middle East issues.

European human rights group to probe Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A delegation from the European Human Rights Commission has arrived in Turkey to probe allegations of rights violations, including torture.

A joint statement by the Turkish Foreign Ministry and the commission said the group would talk to lawyers, academics, journalists, trade unionists and government officials. The delegation comprises Italian, West German, British, Swiss and Spanish members.

Five countries — Denmark, Norway, France, the Netherlands and Sweden — charged Turkey with human rights violations, especially torture, in July 1982 and their complaint was deemed admissible by the commission in December 1983.

The statement said the delegation's visit was part of efforts to reach a "friendly settlement" of the complaint as provided for under the European Human Rights Convention.

Turkey has repeatedly been charged abroad with human rights breaches, including alleged tor-

ture in prisons, and for putting on trial trade unionists, disarmament campaigners and intellectuals who organised a petition for more democracy.

Monday's statement did not say whether the group would visit military bases, the Ministry and the commission said the group would talk to lawyers, academics, journalists, trade unionists and government officials. The delegation comprises Italian, West German, British, Swiss and Spanish members.

If the two sides fail to reach a settlement, the issue could go to the European Human Rights Court in Strasbourg, which can sentence Turkey. The commission and court are organs of the 21-nation Council of Europe which groups West European parliamentary democracies.

The council's foreign ministers meet Tuesday in Strasbourg in a special session at the initiative of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Western diplomats said the council was concerned that Turkey had not yet fully returned to democracy despite the restoration of civilian rule in 1983 following the 1980 military coup.

Sudanese rebels free 4 hostages in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudanese rebels Monday banded over to the Ethiopian government three Europeans and a Kenyan held hostage for nearly a year, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The statement said the hostages, two Frenchmen, a Briton and a Kenyan pilot, were in turn handed over to representatives of their employers, Compagnie de Construction Internationale (CCI).

The statement said their release followed 12 sessions of "delicate and complex" negotiations to resolve differences between the firm and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels.

Ethiopia, on purely humanitarian grounds, had accepted the request to negotiate between the two parties, the statement added.

It did not name the released men or give details of their whereabouts but informed sources here said that the four, Frenchmen Yves Parisse and Michel Dupire, Briton Ian Bain and Kenyan Gwynn Morson, had left for Paris.

The four, together with Morson's German-born wife Ursula and 18-month-old son, were seized when the rebels attacked a CCI camp in southern Sudan. The company was working on the big Jonglei Canal Irrigation Project.

An Australian pilot, Peter Clarke, was killed in the raid and CCI

suspended work on the project. Mrs. Morson, who was pregnant when she was seized, was released with her son last March and flown to Nairobi.

The 350-kilometre canal is designed to bypass swamps and save Nile water from wastage through evaporation and flooding. The rebels, who aim to overthrow Sudanese President Jafer Numeiri, say it would deprive local tribes of water and cause an ecological disaster.

In London, the British Foreign Office said it had been advised that the hostages had left the country on a plane chartered by CCI.

British officials said CCI had paid a ransom but they did not know the amount.

Sudanese rebels said Sunday they have decided to release four employees of a French construction firm who have been held hostage for the past year. A rebel radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said that the leader of the SPLA, John Garang, had ordered them freed on humanitarian grounds.

The SPLA said in its broadcast that Mr. Garang, a U.S.-educated former colonel, had decided to release the prisoners on humanitarian grounds "especially in response to the many moving letters of appeal from families of the hostages."

Sharon claims Time has attacked Israel for 30 years

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, who last week lost his \$50-million libel lawsuit against Time Inc., on Sunday accused Time magazine of publishing false reports about Israel for three decades.

Time's editor-in-chief, Henry Grunwald, who like Sharon appeared on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley," again insisted that the magazine had not lied in reporting about Sharon.

Mr. Grunwald spoke in an earlier segment of the televised show and could not respond directly to Sharon's claim.

The jury that rejected Sharon's libel suit "said not that we lied but we made a mistake in good faith," said Grunwald. "I wish Mr. Sharon would stop saying that we lied."

The editor also said Time would not fire correspondent David Halberstam, who filed the dispatch that led to the story over which Sharon sued.

Sharon said that although he failed to collect damages from Time, "I believe that I managed to accomplish what I wanted to achieve."

A federal jury in New York ruled Thursday that Time had not acted with malice in reporting Sharon's alleged role in the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Falangist Lebanese militiamen.

Earlier, however, the jury found that Time had defamed Sharon and made a mistake in

reporting that before the massacre, he had discussed the need for revenge with Lebanese Falangist leaders mourning their assassination of Lebanon's president.

U.S. district judge Abraham Sofaer said that to bring a libel verdict, the jury had to find Time guilty of three things: Defaming Sharon, false reporting and malice.

The jury did not find malice. Despite that ruling, Sharon repeated his charge that Time lied and said the magazine published false reports about Israel virtually since the birth of the Jewish state in 1948.

"When you read now Time magazine reports that were written in the past 30 years, you can't but find an attempt to libel Israel, to attack Israel, to write untrue stories about Israel," Sharon said.

"The difference was that in the case they accused me with murder. That is the most terrible thing that a human being could have done," he said.

Sharon was forced to resign as defence minister after the inquiry found that he bore "indirect responsibility" for the actions of the Falangist militia as commander of Israeli forces that invaded Lebanon earlier that summer.

Mr. Grunwald repeated Time's argument that its error lay not in reporting the alleged conversation, but saying that it appeared in appendix B of an Israel probe of Sharon's role in the massacre.

Jordan denies taking part in Cairo fair

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Director General of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) Ahmad Sharaka denied Monday a report that Jordan has participated in the Egyptian Book exhibition currently held in Cairo.

Commenting on an Israeli radio report claiming Jordan has participated in the book fair in which Israel was allowed to exhibit, Dr. Sharaka said "our boycott of Israel is still valid and we do not have a normalisation of relations with Israel like Egypt."

He dismissed as "baseless" the news of the Kingdom's participation. However, he said that

there are some Jordanian publishers who participated in the book fair "but these will be penalised." Dr. Sharaka said, adding that they participated without a permission from the DLDNA or the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, the controlling body of such events.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) took part in the 17th Cairo annual book fair which was opened on Jan. 22 running through Feb. 3. Some Arab states boycotted the fair because of Israel's presence have criticised the PLO for taking part.

Israel, which signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979, is taking part in the exhibition for the first time since 1982. The participation

of the Jewish state caused demonstrations and riots in the Egyptian capital.

Last Friday, some 200 Egyptian and Palestinian demonstrators burned the Israeli flag in Cairo's Madinet Nasr, in protest against Israeli participation.

Egyptian opposition parties in a move to undermine the book fair, organised another book exhibition in which Egyptian and foreign publishers who boycotted the other fair, took part.

Meanwhile, after Sunday's demonstration against the Israeli participation, Egypt police stepped up security measures around Israel's stand at the fair but did not immediately break up the demonstration which took place outside.

Air attacks not bringing business to Gulf shipyards

By Dina Matar
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Air strikes against merchant ships in the Gulf, which may look like a boon for the giant ship repair yards in the waterway, have in fact only reduced their business.

Yard operators say the attacks, together with high war risk insurance rates on vessels entering the Gulf and lower world demand for oil, helped slash repair yard business by at least 50 per cent last year by discouraging shippers from coming.

And only a handful of the 60 or so vessels confirmed damaged in attacks by Iran or Iraq since last March have used repair facilities at the huge multi-million dollar dry docks at Bahrain and Dubai.

Shipping sources say most of the stricken tankers opted for repairs in Singapore or South Africa, to get away from the risk of further attacks.

"Air attacks on merchant shipping in the region have had an

adverse effect on our business... contrary to widespread belief," Sheikh Dajid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, chairman of the board of directors of Bahrain's Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY), was quoted as saying recently.

An ASRY spokesman told Reuters that 59 ships used its dry dock and support facilities in 1984, compared with 101 in its heyday in 1981. Only one of the 59 was a war-damaged tanker — the Spanish-owned 122,582-ton Aragon hit last December in an apparent Iranian strike.

The ASRY dry dock and another four jetties were built in 1977 as part of a joint venture by seven Arab oil-producing countries. It can handle tankers of up to 500,000 deadweight tons.

Officials at Dubai's huge dry dock, ASRY's main competitor in the Gulf, said it had serviced 115 ships last year, but that only four of them had been damaged in air attacks.

These were the Kuwaiti tanker Bahrah, the South Korean tanker Royal Colombo, the Panamanian-registered liquefied gas carrier Gaz Fountain and the Cypriot tanker Minotaur.

"About 50 per cent of our business has been cut because of the Iran-Iraq war... Tankers are not coming any more because of high war risk insurance," Thorsten Andersson, chief executive of the Dubai dry dock, told Reuters.

Mr. Andersson said it cost tankers between \$3,000 and \$5,000 a day in additional insurance outlay if they had repairs carried out in the Gulf, as compared with Singapore.

The Dubai repair yard has three dry docks, one of them capable of taking any would-be vessel of up to one million tons.

Operators say another reason for the drop in business is that dry docks in Bahrain and Dubai can only handle unladen tankers.

Many of the tankers hit in the Gulf were loaded with oil lifted

from Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island or from the Saudi Arabian port of Ras Tanunrah.

The ASRY spokesman said tankers had to unload first before using existing facilities. This required special storage tanks, and additional docks, he added.

The Bahrain and Dubai dry docks, products of the heady days of the 1970 oil boom, were built to service the 20 or more giant tankers which entered the Gulf every day at the height of the boom.

But the world oil glut has meant many supertankers had to be scrapped or laid off with the number of tankers using the waterway falling by more than half.

Even before the "tanker war" began last year, as an offshoot of the Iran-Iraq ground war, the shipyards were struggling to stay in business. This was mainly because of a drop in daily liftings of oil from the Gulf.

The financial problems of shipowners have also contributed to the yard's plight.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz	639, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 The Classical
17:00.....Koraa	Guitar 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Ref-
17:10.....Cartoons	lections 07:00 World News 07:09 24
17:20.....Children programmes	Hours: News Summary 07:30 News Ideas
18:20.....Tina Turner Centre	07:40 Book Choice 07:48 The World
18:30.....Local Programme	Today 08:30 Newsweek 08:30 Rock
19:20.....Programme Review	Salad 09:00 World News 09:09 24
19:30.....News Programme	Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sweet
20:30.....Local Programme	Soul Music 09:45 Network UK 10:00
21:00.....Local Programme	World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15
21:25.....Programme Review	The Art of Gerald Moore 10:20 Tippet
21:30.....Varieties Programme	At 10:11 World News 11:09 British
23:00.....News in Arabic	Press Review 11:15 The World Today
FOREIGN CHANNEL	11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look
17:30 German Programme for Children	Ahead 11:45 What's New 12:00 News
18:00.....Des grèves aux Loubs	Summary followed by Discovery 12:30
19:00.....News in French	Wives and Daughters 13:00 World
19:10.....News in Arabic	News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15
19:30.....News in Hebrew	Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00
20:00.....News in Arabic	Radio Newsweek 14:15 Foreign Cor-
20:30.....Star of the Family	respondents 14:45 Sports Round-up
21:10.....News in English	15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours
22:15.....Hardcastle and McCormick	News Summary 15:30 Network UK
RADIO JORDAN	15:45 Recordings of the Week 16:00
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	Outlook 16:45 My Country in Mind 17:00
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW	Radio Newsweek 17:15 A Jolly Good
07:00.....Light Music	Show 18:00 World News 18:09 24
07:30.....News Desk	commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45 The
08:00.....Morning Show	World Today 19:00 World News 19:09
10:00.....News Summary	Meditation 19:40 Scotland This Week
10:30.....Morning Show	19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek
10:55.....Pop Session	20:30 Nature Notebook 20:40 The Far-
11:00.....Pop Session	ming World 21:00 Outlook: News
12:00.....News Summary	Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report
12:05.....Pop Session	21:45 That's That 22:00 World News
13:00.....News Summary	22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30
13:05.....Pop Session	Foreign Correspondent 23:00 News
14:00.....News Bulletin	Summary: Letter from London 23:10
14:10.....Instrumentals	Book Choice 23:15 Concert Hall 24:00
14:30.....Science Fiction	World News: The World Today 00:25
15:00.....Concert Hour	Scotland This Week 00:30 Financial
15:05.....News Summary	News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports
16:00.....Instrumentals	Round-up 01:00 World News: Com-
16:30.....Old Favourites	mentary 01:15 Handel in London 01:30
17:00.....Science Report	Meditation
17:30.....Pop Session	VOICE OF AMERICA
18:00.....News Summary	MW 1200, SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
18:05.....Top Twenty	11925 and 15210 KHz.
19:00.....Date with a Star	06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal
20:00.....Evening Show	Presentation of Popular Music with Fea-
21:00.....News Summary	ture Reports, Interviews, Answers to
21:05.....Evening Show	Listeners' Questions, Science Digest,
21:55.....News Summary	Sports News at 30 minutes past the
22:00.....Evening Show	hour, 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30
22:05.....Evening Show	Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus
23:00.....News Headlines	18:30 Special English News and Fea-
23:05.....Evening Show	tures 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30
23:10.....News Headlines	Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus
23:15.....Evening Show	20:30 Special English News and Fea-
24:00.....News Headlines	tures

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of the new German films daily at the Goethe Institute except Friday, Sunday and Thursday afternoon and will run until Feb. 7.

An exhibition of books and publications on the teaching of English, organised by the British Council, at the House of Jordan Languages Centre.

FILM

"ABC News - The McLaughlin Group."
- at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

PLAY

* A local play (The Choice) at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 661026/7
Amman Club	44371
American Centre Library	41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	37009
Goethe Institute	41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Spanish Cultural Centre	24049
Turkish Cultural Centre	39777
Yafa Arts Centre	665195
Husseini Youth Club	667181
Y.W.C.A.	41793
Y.W.M.C.A.	664251
Amman Municipal Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Romano Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 6767.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Oa'e (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists.

collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mountash, Jabal Lueweidh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays, Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military weapons, armaments dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 662420.

Popular Life of Jordanian Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Leas Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.

Leas Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lueweidh. 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lueweidh, 661757.

Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Al-Batna, 25341.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771531.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) - Ashrafieh, 771751.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational) - at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

05:10	Fajr
06:32	(Sunrise)
11:49	Dhuhr
17:45	'Asr
18:25	Maghrib
18:29	Isha

AACO discusses passenger services

AMMAN (Petra) — Regional Arab cooperation in the field of air transport is an important step in a world where competition is very extreme according to Ali, the Royal Jordanian Airlines President Mahmoud Balqaz.

Mr. Balqaz was opening Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) conference on passenger services, at Queen Alia International Airport Monday.

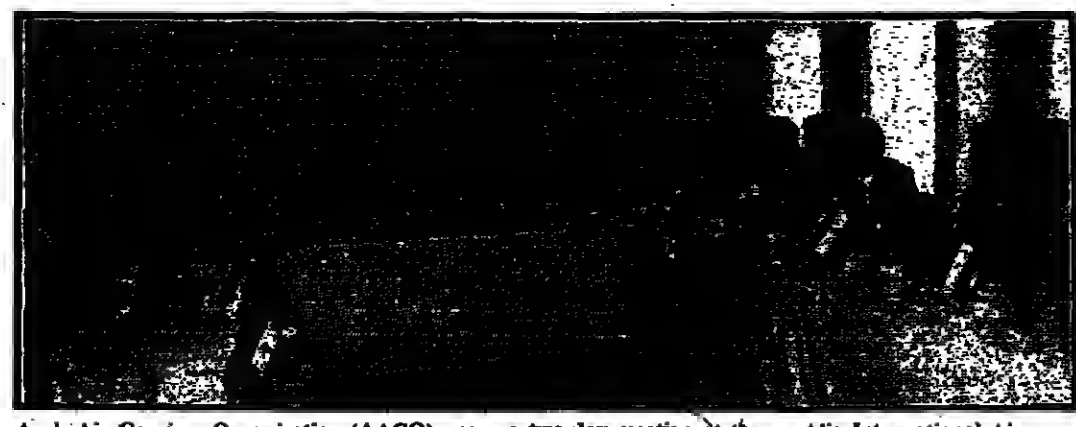
He stressed the importance of the role of AACO "in setting the right atmosphere and adopting adequate methods for building a strong Arab air transport industry capable of withstanding worldwide competition."

Alia Vice-President Aqel Bultaji said the main objective of the meeting is "to update, simplify and uniform Arab airlines' regulations and procedures in order to provide better passenger services."

The two-day meeting is attended by representatives of 16 Arab airlines and will also tackle various problems including the possibility of standardising facilities and services used at Arab airports and on board aircraft.

Monday's meeting reviewed the activities during the past year.

Participating in the meeting were representatives of Arab airlines from Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, North Yemen, South Yemen, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.



Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) opens a two-day meeting at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

New organisation to strengthen expatriates' links with homeland

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Youth has extended its programmes by setting up the Jordanian Expatriate Youth Affairs Section (JEYAS), which started functioning Saturday, to strengthen links between Jordanian expatriates and their motherland.

Government concerns over issues pertaining to the expatriate youth is one of the major reasons that prompted Minister of Youth Dr. Hani Khasawneh to set up the JEYAS, according to Mr. Ibrahim Quteishat director of the new organisation.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Sunday Mr. Quteishat outlined the goals of JEYAS as:

- to provide continuous active communication with Jordanian expatriates through providing them with the latest news of their country;
- to provide them with books, magazines, newspapers and publications published by the Ministry of Youth and other governmental departments; and
- to strengthen the cooperation between the expatriate youth and the Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad through cultural attaches who will contact the expatriates personally and discuss various issues of interest.

JEYAS will also organise seminars and meetings in which the expatriates' problems as well as their experiences abroad could be discussed in an attempt to provide future expatriates with better information, Mr. Quteishat said. Another aim of JEYAS is to study the manpower requirements of the Jordanian labour market and to supply the expatriates with the results of such studies in a move aimed at encouraging them to return and participate in their homeland's development programmes, he said.

An issue of major concern to JEYAS is to offer guidance to parents of the expatriate youth on how to guide their wards abroad, Mr. Quteishat said.

He added that JEYAS is using the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) as its headquarters, and employs six people. He hoped that the number of employees will increase in the near future to enable JEYAS to offer prompt services and quick replies to inquiries made by the expatriate youth.

Mr. Quteishat added JEYAS has already received a number of letters of encouragement from Jordanian expatriate youth, who congratulated the Ministry of Youth for setting up such an organisation that aims at strengthening the ties between the expatriates and their country.

Mr. Quteishat said that a number of parents visited the JEYAS centre at the RCC inquiring if JEYAS could help them in locating their children who either have not written for a long time or are spending too much money and apparently obtaining no degrees.

A number of youth have written letters to JEYAS asking for information on Jordanian industries, agriculture, and statistical information which they use while preparing for their senior dissertations for all levels of higher education, including graduate programmes as well as post-graduate degrees and doctorates.

The news of the establishment of JEYAS was relayed to Jordanian expatriates through the Kingdom's diplomatic missions abroad, Mr. Quteishat said, and the main factor that will "determine our success is the feedback we get from the expatriates."

JEYAS has requested local Jordanian newspapers to donate a fixed number of local newspapers to the organisation on a daily basis and these papers in turn will be mailed to the expatriates by JEYAS, he said.

Mr. Quteishat expressed hope that JEYAS will be able to expand its services soon and also that the expatriate youth will respond positively to promote its services.

Mr. Quteishat also expressed confidence that JEYAS will assist the expatriates in solving their problems and obstacles, "but in turn, I believe that the expatriates should help us through their positive response."

Mu'ta University to open Saturday

KARAK (Petra) — Muta University, Jordan's third university, will be formally opened under royal patronage at a special ceremony to be held on Saturday at the university's permanent campus in Muta, near Karak, an official announcement said Monday.

The university, which lies some 150 kilometres south of Amman, was established to offer new courses of study which are not offered by the other two universities in Jordan — the University of Jordan in Amman and Yarmouk University near Irbid — said Dr. Ali Mahafza, president of the new institution, in a statement following the announcement.

The focus of the courses offered at Muta University will be military training to graduate officers of armed and security forces, Dr. Mahafza said. He added that various academic courses in literature, science and technology will also be offered to students.

The university also offers courses in electrical and mechanical engineering, computer science and law, in addition to Arabic and English language courses, the university president said.

The choice of Muta as site for the university, Dr. Mahafza said, was in commemoration of the famous Battle of Muta between Muslims on the one hand and Byzantines and Persians on the other.

At present 330 students are enrolled at the university's various faculties of whom 300 are on scholarships offered by the Armed Forces while the rest came from the Public Security Department.

The students have free boarding and accommodation and clothing, in addition to an allowance of JD 50 a month in pocket money, Dr. Mahafza said. He said students are allowed to make visits to their families during weekends and holidays.

After the needs of the Armed Forces and the security department have been met the university hopes to accept students to help meet the needs of other institutions and government departments and the Jordanian society, Dr. Mahafza said.

At present, the university has 60 furnished flats for the families of the staff and 80 housing units for singles in addition to boarding quarters for students, he said. The university has a gymnasium hall, three clubs, restaurants for staff and students and a consumer shop. The university's library contains 23,000 books which deal mainly in law, administration, Arabic and English, Dr. Mahafza said.

Dr. Mahafza said the Police Science Faculty of the university will be supplying the Public Security Department with highly trained staff and will feed the Armed Forces with skilled commanders and will serve as a research ground for military personnel and academicians alike.

In addition, he said, the university will play a leading role in developing the potash industry near the Dead Sea. The phosphates mines in Hasa and Rashadieh, and the South Cement Company as well as the mineral springs at Ma'in and Afa and in the south of the Dead Sea.

Civil Defence Department to finalise early warning system during 1985

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director General Monday said the early warning system of the CDD will be finalised during the current year.

The system aims to prompt reporting on accidents and fires to enable civil defence personnel to respond to emergency cases on the spot.

In a statement he gave to the Jordan Times, Gen. Tarawneh outlined the project as a joint cooperation between the CDD and the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) at the Ministry of Communication which aims to install static telephone sets in companies and factories located far from available telephone services. He said the system will function within a circle of 30 kilometre radius in Amman.

According to Gen. Tarawneh, the system will operate through the telephone sets which transfer signals to the operation room at the CDD. These signals carry calls for emergency, rescue or fire which will transfer into a data to be fed to a special computer.

The computer, takes the data and analyses it, providing information about the site of the emergency, the nearest way to the site, the number of employees working, the material produced or stored at the site in question, houses and population in the vicinity and the nearest supply water tanks.

"The data then systematically conveys to the nearest CDD centre to the location," Gen. Tarawneh said.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Gen. Tarawneh as saying "the CDD is in the process of increasing its emergency centres especially in the industrial regions, during the current year."

Speaking about the CDD operations, Gen. Tarawneh pointed out that in 1984, the CDD put out 2,659 fires, answered 2,993 emergency calls and took part in 155 rescue cases in the Kingdom, which resulted in the death of 345 people while 3,558 were injured.

Commenting on the CDD role at Aqaba Port, he said that the Aqaba Port Corporation is in charge of fire extinguishing on the quay.

He added that the corporation operates modern fire fighting vessels and vehicles, "however the CDD responsibility lies in backing the corporation when in need."

Gen. Tarawneh called on citizens to respond positively to the CDD safety guidance and implement them properly in order to preserve their lives and properties.

Chemistry seminar concluded

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on "chemistry and the society", organised by the Jordanian Chemists Association (JCA), was concluded Monday at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The seminar highlighted the importance of chemistry in the development of the society.

The two-day seminar discussed studies on chemical industries in Jordan, quality control in drug industries, drug control and the chemistry curriculum in the secondary schools.

Also discussed were working papers on occupational safety in chemical industries, the training of workers with the use of machines and chemical hazards.

Dr. Quteishat expressed hope that JEYAS will be able to expand its services soon and also that the expatriate youth will respond positively to promote its services.

Mr. Quteishat also expressed confidence that JEYAS will assist the expatriates in solving their problems and obstacles, "but in turn, I believe that the expatriates should help us through their positive response."

Zarqa drinking water crisis will be solved by April, WAJ says

By P. V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) promised Monday that the problem of drinking water in Zarqa, which the area's residents have been battling for many years, will be solved by early April.

A high salt content in drinking water supplied by the municipal authorities has been one of the major problems facing Zarqa residents, and according to WAJ Secretary-General Mahmoud Talhouni, the root cause of the problem will be eliminated when an ongoing WAJ project is completed and water from Azraq reaches Zarqa in April.

Drinking water has always been a big issue in Zarqa, where residents resort to various means to overcome the problem. Some residents even carry gallons of water from Amman and other regions neighbouring Zarqa to drink and to make their tea with, while the well-off among the Zarqa residents drink bottled water.

The water supplied by the Zarqa municipal authorities is too salty for cooking or even making tea, according to Zarqa residents. "I have been so for many years and we always look forward to a trip to Amman or other neighbouring towns to bring back water with less salinity," says one of them.

One of the five wells that feed the Zarqa water reservoir has a salinity rate of 2,600 parts per million (ppm), while the acceptable salinity in drinking water is 500 ppm, Mr. Talhouni said Monday. The Zarqa municipal authorities, who were in charge of water supply in the district until WAJ took over the responsibility earlier this month, have been using this well in summer, when the problem becomes very acute, to feed the reservoir along with the four other wells which have relatively low salinity rates.

The overall mixture of drinking water pumped from the reservoir to consumers has a salinity rate of about 1,500 ppm, which still made it much higher than the acceptable proportion, Mr. Talhouni explained.

Though the municipal authorities were aware of the problem, "they had no real choice to solve it," Mr. Talhouni told the Jordan Times. "The regional limitations of the municipal boundaries put constraints on Zarqa Municipality's options to solve the problem, in spite of the fact that some of the neighbouring regions used to enjoy better drinking water," he said.

WAJ took over the responsibility of supplying drinking water to all of Jordan as part of its functions under new legislations enacted in late 1984 and all municipalities in the Kingdom have been handing over the charge to the authority since then.

After taking over the charge in Zarqa, where 1,000 cubic metres of water per hour is needed for its 400,000 inhabitants, WAJ decided to solve the problem of drinking water there by eliminating the well with 2,600 ppm salinity from feeding the Zarqa reservoir. Furthermore, WAJ drew up a plan to supply the reservoir with water from Azraq and "we are now in the process of building a nine-kilometre pipeline from the Khaw pumping station to the reservoir," Mr. Talhouni said.

It is expected that when water from Azraq is pumped to the reservoir the overall salinity of drinking water supplied to Zarqa residents will come down to around 500 ppm, thereby solving the problem once and for all, the WAJ official said.

The contract to build the 40-centimetre diameter pipeline has been awarded to a local firm at a cost of JD 200,000 and the project is scheduled to be completed by April, he said.

The four other wells, two of them in Oujan which lies southwest of Zarqa, and the others in the north, will continue to be used to feed the reservoir, Mr. Talhouni said.

"Now that WAJ has taken over the responsibility of all water resources in the Kingdom, we are much more flexible and have a number of options to solve similar problems in other regions," he added.



Mahmoud Talhouni

King hopeful over U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

The King said Jordanian-Palestinian relations "should be based on equality: two units, a Palestinian and a Jordanian, together with their independent local governments, house of representatives and hopefully at a higher level a house representing both sides and a central government."

Asked on what the leadership of the PLO would have to agree in order for Jordan to join with it in seeking negotiations with Israel, the King said: "Basically the formula embodied in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, the common denominator of all initiatives to resolve the Arab-Israeli issue — Territory for peace."

On relations with Iraq and Egypt, and whether Jordan has attempted to establish a new axis of Arab moderates through these relations, the King said: "We hope we will be able to move away from the state of paralysis. Everything else has to be agreed upon by the total Arab family. Obviously this has proven unattainable."

The King said that Egypt and Iraq were important as well as the rest of the Arab family "but the nucleus is a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on how we should move, that the time is vital and we should move before either hope is lost in the occupied territories or the chances missed."

"At the same time, we would work closely with Egypt while Iraq supports all what Jordanians and Palestinians agree upon. This is the feeling of the majority."

Asked whether he is optimistic about Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' ability of creating a backbone in the Israeli government to meet Jordan in a conciliatory way, the King said: "I am not necessarily sure that this may happen, but I would hope this would be the case somehow."

On Lebanon, the King said the Israeli decision to withdraw from Lebanese territory was "inevitable and that such a step had to be taken."

Asked on the reason's of his disappointment with the U.S. policy in the Middle East, the King said "the continuous erosion of positions since 1967 and the vast differences between its current stands and its positions in 1956 over the Arab-Israeli issue, the situation as we see it deteriorating on the ground in terms of the occupied territories; the total American support for Israel right or wrong, militarily, materially and morally."

The King said he hoped to see the U.S. playing a major role in achieving peace in the area — a role that only the U.S. can play.

He said that the "vacuum" created by the U.S. was caused by its "double standards on dealing with problems in the region."

Responding to a question, the King said Jordan has not closed the doors for buying arms from the U.S., but that "we have to enhance our stability beyond our borders and our needs are vital for self-defence." He said that Jordan viewed the U.S. rejection of providing the Kingdom's arms needs as a "denial of our legitimate self-defence and humiliating conditions affecting our country and its armed forces that we could not accept."

International conference to discuss caravan civilisation

By Nidal Zayadin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Petra and the famous caravan cities of the Middle East" will be the title of an international conference scheduled to be held here in September by the Department of Antiquities with financial support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The department's assistant director general and the project's initiator, Dr. Fawzi Zayadin, said in an interview with the Jordan Times that this is the first conference to be organised by the department in the celebrated trade centre of Petra. Other cities, such as Hegra (Medain Saleh), Qaryat el Fau in Saudi Arabia, Hatra (El-Hadhr) in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria will provide the geographic frame for the conference, he said.

Arabian identity

Dr. Zayadin added that the general theme of the symposium would be the local traditions of the caravan cities and the Greco-Roman impact on cultic representations. The conference will also focus on the Arabian identity of these trade centres and the penetration of Hellenism and its influence on their religion as illustrated by their plastic art, he said.

Asked about the importance of the symposium for Petra, Dr. Zayadin explained that Petra was rediscovered by scholars in 1812, but very little progress has been reached in the dating of its art and monuments and the origin of its art as few excavations have been conducted on the site. Therefore, it is hoped that the conference will prompt an international campaign for the excavations and restoration of the monuments, Dr. Zayadin said.

He also pointed out that the seminar will be organised in cooperation with the Foundation for the Iconographic Lexicon of Classical Mythology, based in Basel, Switzerland which in the past has sponsored many similar meetings in Paris, Basel, Athens and Cyprus. An account of the seminar will be edited by this foundation which has already edited the colloquium of the National Centre of the Scientific Research in Paris in 1981 and two volumes of the "Lexicon Iconographicum."

Influences

Discussing the theme of the symposium, Dr. Zayadin said that the conference will focus on the civilisation of the caravan cities and that it would demonstrate the Arabian background of these centres in terms of language, architecture and religion. But it would also show the relations with the West especially the Greco-Roman capitals such as Alexandria in Egypt, Cyprus, Antioch, Athens and Rome. It is well known, for example, that the Nabateans borrowed their architecture from Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Hellenistic cities.

The participants of the symposium would examine the adaptation of western concepts to the religious architecture and traditions of the Arabs.

Referring to the role of UNESCO in the conference, Dr. Zayadin pointed out that UNESCO was approached through the Jordanian National, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Committee to request financial support. Although the organisation is now facing serious financial problems, he added, its officials have allocated a \$2,000 contribution for the conference because UNESCO realised the importance of such a conference for history, culture and archaeology.

Regarding the major role of these cities in the civilisation of the Middle East, Dr. Zayadin explained that a caravan station like Hatra (el Hadhr), was situated about 110 km south-west of Mosul, in the ancient Assyrian Kingdom. It served as a cross-roads between India, Iran and Syria. Its architecture shows the influence of the Parthians on the ancient Assyrian traditions. The city was independent in 176 A.D., during the Roman occupation of the East.

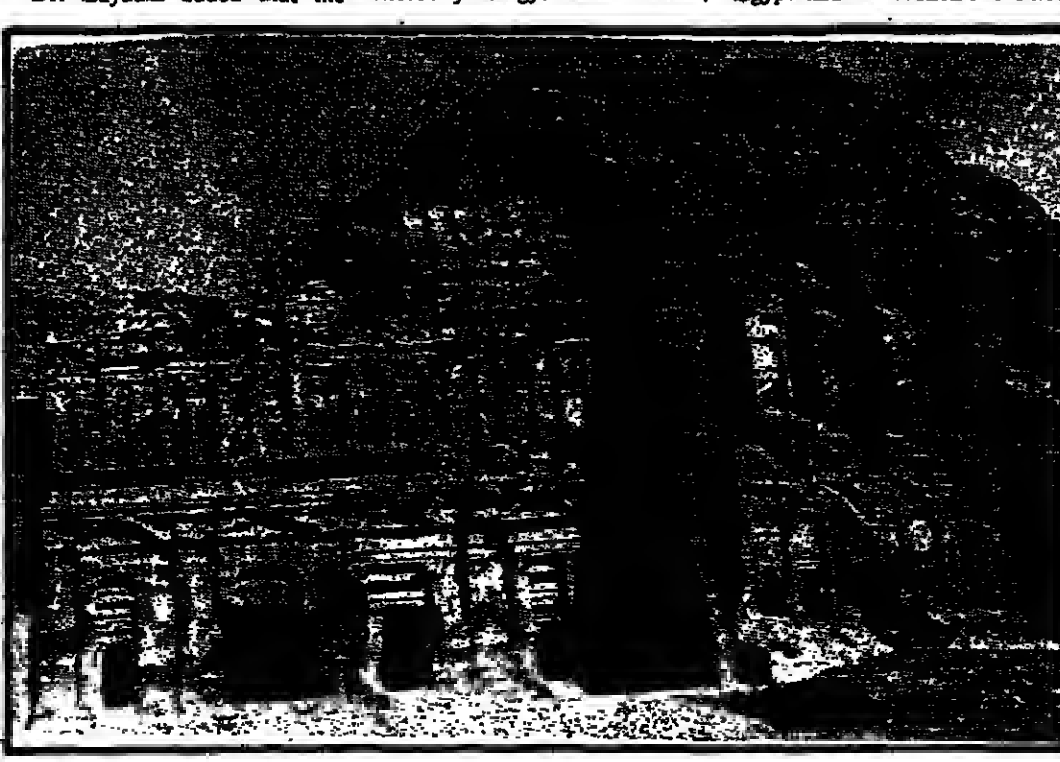
The architecture and sculptures exhibit features representing Mesopotamian, Iranian and Roman art. But the famous city, inhabited mainly by Arabs, was short-lived for it was destroyed and looted in 240 by the Sassanids of Iran. Palmyra in Syria experienced the same fate: It flourished under Zenobia from the trade between the East and West until it was destroyed by Valerian in 270 A.D.

Spices, silk

From 'Hegra the caravaners proceeded to the ancient port of Leuke Kome, today Ainunah, and the merchandise reached Egypt via the Red Sea. Other desert routes connected Hegra with Teima, Daumat (el Jaut) in Wadi Sirhan and continued to the Arabian Gulf. The spices of India and the silk of China were carried by the Nabateans from the Ghertha on the Gulf.

He also said that the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, as well as the department, are supporting the project and will provide the necessary logistic and financial needs. Scholars from more than 20 Arab, American and European countries will participate and will place Jordan and Petra at the centre of an international cultural conference.

Countries which will take part in the conference include Algeria, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Germany, Britain, Italy, Iraq, Jordan, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen, Kuwait and Turkey whilst UNESCO will also be taking part in the conference.



Petra, the Royal Tombs.



The monumental gate and columned street of Palmyra

Israelis seal off S. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

With French troops of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the village.

A roadside landmine exploded outside Deir Ma'ass village on the Litani River near Beaufort Castle, injuring one Israeli soldier badly and one slightly.

Security sources in Sidon said a third person was killed and another wounded when unidentified gunmen fired on a car Monday morning, wounding the driver and killing his 16-year-old son.

According to official Israeli figures, 610 Israeli soldiers have been killed, in addition to over 4,000 soldiers wounded, since the Jewish state's invasion of Lebanon.

By Rami G. Khouri

The immediate objective seems to me to remove the artificial sense of urgency and the politics of personalities that have come to define this problem today, and to replace them with a mechanism and a vision of a small country dealing with big issues.

The mistake with AZAPO is they are unable to distill the real problem. The struggle is not against white people, but against policies pursued by an administration that happens to be dominated by white people," Mr. Latham said.

Iran inflicts savage patterns of torture on Iraqi POWs

Following is a press release on the Iranian regime's practices against the Iraqi prisoners of war issued by the Iraqi government. The Jordan Times publishes the report as it has received it from the Iraqi Embassy in Amman.

1. The use of the methods of threats and torture

This is one of the methods of changing the ideological structure through a series of cruel measures involving the threat to kill, physical and psychological torture and sham trials. Through this method, many ugly crimes were committed including the killing of 30 prisoners of war and the injuring of 70 others for the mere reason that those prisoners expressed their discontent over their maltreatment by the guards. Other cages for prisoners witnessed similar executions in Kharg, Barandak, Taziyah, Tawanda, Meshhad, Simran and Anzali. The use of this method is aimed at destabilising the emotional balance of the prisoners of war by suggesting to them that a horrible fate awaits them if they do not accede to the demands of the enemy.

2. Sectarian isolation

"The enemy" also resorted to

isolating the prisoners according to sect and religion. The Shi'ites for example were kept away from the Sunnis and the Christians. According to this isolation, the enemy brought clergymen from each sect and sought to change the inclinations of the prisoners of war in keeping with their sectarian sentiments.

The aim behind this measure is to address the prisoners of war each according to his religious belief, which makes it easier to achieve control over them. As to the Christians, they were subjected to heavy pressures aimed at converting them to Shi'ism and forcing them to perform Islamic religious rites.

3. Daily coercive measures

This includes forcing the prisoners of war to listen to lengthy religious preachings charged with hatred for Iraq and its leadership, and forcing them to carry the photographs of Khomeini and to shout slogans against the political system in Iraq and to perform col-

lective prayers. This measure is also aimed at accustoming the prisoners of war to such conduct, and this leads, through repetition, to what is called in psychology the "force of habit" under which the prisoner of war feels no sense of guilt as a result of shouting slogans against the regime or carrying the photograph of Khomeini, etc.

4. The method of hiding the prisoners of war

"The enemy" has hidden large numbers of the prisoners of war from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Such a method heightens the anxiety of the prisoners of war who have been entirely cut off from news about their families. It also increases their fear about their underdetermined fate and makes them feel that they are exposed to death at any moment. This may lead a prisoner to acceding to all the wishes of the enemy in order to preserve his life and to hear news about his family.

5. Changing the place of the prisoners of war

Under this measure, the enemy transfers the prisoners of war, in groups or individually, from one place of detention to other places in a continuous manner. This lea-

ves the prisoner of war in a state of continuous anxiety which denies him the opportunity to adapt himself to the circumstances around him and to form close relations with his fellow prisoners of war. This often leads to weakening the psychological resistance of the prisoner of war and consequently the enemy achieves his aim of making the prisoner of war receptive to anything in return for stability. This also makes the prisoners of war more pliable and more receptive to ideological suggestion at least on the surface in order that he may be left alone.

6. Solitary confinement

"The enemy" distributed the prisoners of war in such a way as to make it easy for him to deal with them in accordance with his aims. He isolated the officers from men. He also tried to break up the unity of the group by dispersing friends and colleagues. "The enemy" practised solitary detention of individuals who enjoy a good standing among the prisoners of war and who resist the methods and programmes of the enemy.

This measure aims at placing barriers before the psychological unity of the prisoners of war which may arise from a group living in

one place. It also aims at punishing the prisoners of war who offer resistance in order that others may not contemplate emulating them.

7. Inserting agents into the ranks of prisoners of war

This takes place by inserting elements from the puppet "Dawa" Party into the ranks of prisoners of war in order to gain knowledge about their political leanings and loyalties. Those agents are selected from various areas of Iraq and are charged with writing accurate reports on the afflictions and allegiances of the prisoners of war and presenting such reports to the administration of the cage. In the light of such reports, military confinement and murders are carried out.

8. Intimidation of the pilots

In view of the active role of pilots in the war, the enemy has intimidated them by such methods as telling them they would be tried after the war as war criminals.

This method makes the prisoner of war very anxious about his future and fate and may lead to the

same results referred to elsewhere in this report.

9. Poisoning food

This is done by adding to the food poisonous substances or substances loosening the bowels in order to make the prisoners of war suffer from collective severe pain or defecate on themselves. This measure aims at making the prisoners of war feel humiliated and weak and at bringing them ultimately to a state of psychological exhaustion, which makes them accept what is imposed on them voluntarily in order to ensure their safety.

10. Sexual assault

The administration of the cages of the prisoners of war encourages those cooperating with them to sexually assault uncooperative prisoners of war, particularly juveniles. This leads to weakening the moral deterrent of the prisoner of war and to turning him into a pliable tool in the hands of the enemy and his agents.

11. Night raids

This is done intermittently. At various times of the night, the guards

of the cages of the prisoners of war emit alarming cries calling on the prisoners of war to gather and go out. During these intervals, individual and collective punishments are imposed on the prisoners of war, such as making them crawl on the snow or leaving groups of them until the morning gathering piles of snow opposite the gates of the prison. This is aimed at depriving the prisoner of war of rest and leaving him in a state of psychological instability in order to win him over.

12. Withholding letters

For the prisoner of war, the greatest joy is receiving letters. "The enemy" has made a trump card of this. He withholds letters from the prisoner of war after telling him that his letters have arrived. This measure entails a great deal of psychological torture. It is also aimed at winning over the prisoner of war by signalling to him that all his needs will be met if he cooperates. Otherwise, he would be deprived of those needs.

13. Exhausting forced labour

Against all divine and human principles, "the enemy" is im-

posing forced labour on the prisoners of war for long hours from dawn to dusk, such as unloading big trucks or excavation work, without their enjoying minimum rest and nourishment. At best, they eat one meal. Those conditions have had an adverse effect on their health, emotional balance and psychological stability.

14. Various methods of torture

For the most trifling of reasons, the enemy metes out severe and savage punishments to the prisoners of war. The violence and cruelty of those punishments are mounting with the passage of each day. Perhaps the most salient of those punishments, in addition to what we have already mentioned, are inserting caustic materials into the mouth, shaving half of the face and half of the head and inserting a sandal into the mouth, and the use of electric shocks. This method is aimed at instilling in the prisoner of war humiliation and permanent fear and consequently the complete loss of a sense of security. This may force some prisoners of war to collaborate in order to rid themselves of the agony of torture.

Tamil Nadu: Square meal, schooling for every child

A remarkable scheme to meet the nutritional needs of Tamil Nadu's seven million two-to-nine year-olds has enlarged school enrolments, created thousands of jobs, and given a boost to the rural economy.

By P.K. Balachandran

JUST OVER a year and a half ago, the government of the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu launched a daring nutrition scheme: it pledged to give every child between two and nine years of age and living below the poverty line one square meal a day every day of the year.

The task was enormous. There are over seven million children in this age group in Tamil Nadu, and they are spread over thousands of villages. The cost also was enormous — over \$120 million a year. But the situation in the state with regard to child care had all the makings of a developing emergency, and something clearly needed to be done.

Nearly 40 per cent of all deaths

in Tamil Nadu occur among children under the age of four. A third of the children who perish die of malnutrition. The diet atlas of India would show Tamil Nadu, somewhere near the bottom of the table of caloric intake per head. The Indian Council of Medical Research has stipulated that under Indian conditions, child should get at least 2,400 calories units per day. But surveys in the state showed that barely 45 per cent of the children were getting this required amount. Because of the prevailing poverty, families were unable to afford for each of their children the 9 U.S. cents a day needed to provide this nutritional minimum.

It is difficult to pinpoint precisely the extent of poverty in the state. The government estimates

that about 65 per cent of the people live below the poverty line, but an International Labour Organisation (ILO) publication recently put the figure at 75 per cent. The Green Revolution of the mid-sixties, which brought so much prosperity to the sub-continent and to many in Tamil Nadu, unfortunately completely bypassed the majority of this state's rural population.

The inputs which the much-proclaimed revolution entailed — fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation — were too expensive for farmers with small holdings who, along with landless labourers, were in an overwhelming majority. Over 60 per cent of agricultural land was in the hands of just 10 per cent of the rural population.

Additionally, the Green Revolution boosted rice production but left millet, the common man's food in the dry and poverty-stricken areas of the state, un-

ouched. With resources being diverted to intensive rice cultivation, and with a fall in state-financed irrigation, millet farmers in the dry areas sank further into poverty, and began to lose their land to the "smarter" (read bigger and richer) farmers. In the ten years of the Green Revolution, from 1961 to 1971, the percentage of landless labourers in the total rural population actually shot up from 22 to 35, clearly indicating a trend towards increasing poverty.

There is a powerful farm lobby in the state, as indeed in many other parts of India, but it has always spoken for the middle and large peasants only. Lacking organisation, farm labourers have frequently been unable to press for the statutory minimum wages from the landlords, and poor small peasants were unable to capitalise on the new technologies.

Satisfying malnourished children's needs

The meal that is now served under the government scheme consists of 80 grammes of rice, 10 grammes of lentils (a major source of protein in India), seven grammes of the non-fatty palmolein oil, condiments, vegetables and greens. It costs less than 5 U.S. cents and meets the basic nutritional requirements. The Avinashilingam Chettiar Home Science College at Coimbatore, under the direction of the well-known nutritionist Dr. (Mrs.) Rajammal Devasdas, has worked out a variety of dishes with these basic ingredients to meet the tastes of the palate and the needs of young bodies.

In order to promote education and child care through the scheme and the scheme was anticipated to produce, it was decided that the children would be fed at the state's 33,323 elementary schools and 4,363 child welfare centres. Parents who wanted their children to be fed were required to enrol them in one of these ins-

titutions.

The results have been remarkable, with school enrolments going beyond the year's target of 160,000 children in just three months. These results confirmed findings from previous small-scale meals schemes in the state that enrolment was higher and the drop-out rate lower in districts and schools which provided a free mid-day meal.

A distinctive feature of the scheme was the decision to do away with cumbersome criteria to determine eligibility. And visually, it is very difficult to distinguish between malnourished children and those adequately fed. So in a situation where a substantial majority of the households do not have enough to meet their basic needs, school teachers and child welfare workers were asked not to deny food to any child. Unlike many previous nutritional programmes, therefore, the present one has considerable flexibility at the grass-root level.

The scheme has had several extremely beneficial spin-offs. Increased enrolment immediately created the need for 4,000 more teachers. The commitment to feed every hungry child, also meant opening schools about a kilometre apart throughout the state, as well as the establishment of 1,200 more child welfare centres.

The state's farmers have benefited from the scheme too. The government today buys 20,000 additional tonnes of rice and 2,400 tonnes of lentils a year from them for the scheme alone. Vegetables, condiments and firewood are also bought locally, and the whole operation has given the local small-scale grower and trader as well as the local economy a much-needed boost.

In all, 120,000 new jobs have been created by the scheme so far. Government regulations ensured that these jobs were taken up by those in the most deprived communities and in the weakest sec-



To promote school enrolment, the feeding scheme required that the meals be served in school.

tion. But unlike the teachers, these workers are not organised and their voice is not given the hearing it deserves.

Though public contribution have been coming in and have crossed the \$1 million mark, the well-to-do have not shown enthusiasm for the scheme. Contributors have complained of political coercion. The richer temples which were made to contribute also protested and even threatened court action.

Some critics have pointed out that a nutritious meals scheme cannot have the desired impact unless it is accompanied by a good health delivery system. It is in this sphere that Tamil Nadu has a long way to go. Its per capita spending on health is below the Indian national average. It spends barely eight per cent of its annual outlay on health, which is just one third of the minimum requirement.

Another problem concerns the cooks and helpers, who are paid far less than the statutory minimum. But unlike the teachers, these workers are not organised and their voice is not given the hearing it deserves.

Though public contribution have been coming in and have crossed the \$1 million mark, the well-to-do have not shown enthusiasm for the scheme. Contributors have complained of political coercion. The richer temples which were made to contribute also protested and even threatened court action.



The prosperity engendered by India's Green Revolution bypassed the majority of Tamil Nadu's small farmers.

Liechtenstein: A state comes out of its shell for big money

The tiny Alpine principality of Liechtenstein is taking daring steps into the world of international finance. Jonathan Carr, recently in Vaduz, takes a look at the country's record of prosperity and its dreams for the future.

THE Liechtensteins are going forth to do battle with the rest of the world. To avoid alarm, let there be no misunderstanding. The little 61 square miles Alpine principality wedged between Austria and Switzerland disbanded its 80-man army in 1868, and there are no plans to reinstate it. The contest now being joined is in the field of international finance and the fast-growing Bank in Liechtenstein (BIL) is leading the advance. It initially established footholds in London, Zurich and New York — and now has just opened in Frankfurt too.

At first sight this seems odd. After all Liechtenstein is famed for attracting foreign funds like a magnet, thanks to its low taxes, almost impenetrable banking secrecy and unusually flexible (not to say baffling) company law. Why then should bankers already banking in a financial paradise be so keen to spread their wings abroad?

The answer has much to do with the ascendency of a ruling family which over centuries has shown a striking ability to keep abreast of the times — and whose private foundation owns all but a few per cent of the BIL.

Originally based in Vienna the aristocratic House of Liechtenstein only acquired the little state — which henceforth bore the family name — in the early

18th century. The principality thus became the westernmost outpost (and a poor one at that) of vast family estates stretching across Austria into Eastern Europe. More than 80 per cent of those possessions were engulfed, first by the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1919, then through the World War II and the descent of the Iron Curtain. But that still left a lot of wealth behind, including the BIL (founded in 1920), real estate and one of the world's richest private art collections.

Since the war, Liechtenstein has prospered mightily, thanks not least to the prudent decision in the 1920s to take the state into customs union with Switzerland and to adopt the Swiss franc as the national currency (while retaining full fiscal autonomy). Industry has boomed, there are no strikes or unemployment. (Indeed there is a chronic shortage of labour) and per capita income is among the highest in the world.

Moreover, while having the full advantage of belonging to the traditionally stable Swiss franc zone, Liechtenstein offers some benefits even Switzerland does not wholly match. For example, the principality does not have the 35 per cent withholding tax which the Swiss levy — one key factor prompting thousands of foreign companies to take nominal residence

in Liechtenstein. Banking discretion in the little state is so complete (aided by the absence of double taxation accords with all countries but Austria) that the saying is often heard: "If you want a real Swiss account, go to Liechtenstein."

Small wonder that Liechtenstein is a major draw and turntable for international funds and that the principality has benefited from this.

It might seem that the ruling family could look down on all this with some complacency from its castle (to which it wisely moved from Austria in 1938) set high above Vaduz, the Liechtenstein capital. But times change and some of the foundations of paradise are not quite what they were. For one thing, there were the scandals a few years ago over shady financial transactions involving locally-based "letter box" companies. In a recent interview, Crown Prince Hans Adam, who took over the reins of office last summer, emphasised that his country had since brought in much stricter controls which had proved their worth. Indeed the controls are more stringent than those applied by many another "offshore centre". The affair underlines the delicate problem of keeping a balance, tough enough to hold the really shady dealers at bay but liberal enough to ensure a lot of business does not simply flow elsewhere.

Then there is the continuing heavy pressure on Switzerland,

notably from the U.S., to relax its banking secrecy to help catch tax evaders and others. Liechtenstein has largely escaped such pressure so far — but for how much longer? And suppose Switzerland one day decided to do more to match the kind of tax benefits Liechtenstein offers? Few in the principality are ready to say it out loud — but it is likely that Switzerland and Liechtenstein, rivals as well as good friends, will come closer in their financial and fiscal regulation.

The corollary is that Liechtenstein must develop banking and financial services which do not rely so heavily on the principality's current, special position. "We must be able to find — and win — with the same weapons our competitors abroad have," is the kind of phrase one hears in Vaduz.

Hence the surge of foreign expansion under way by the bank in Liechtenstein under Mr. Christian Norgren, 43; its dynamic chairman, Mr. Norgren, a Swede, was brought in four years ago by the princely family not just to head the bank, but also to act as president and chief executive officer of the House of Liechtenstein foundation. He already had wide experience and contacts as head of Deutsch-Skandinavische Bank in Frankfurt.

Now he is working hand in glove with Crown Prince Hans Adam to give the BIL a firm international base.

Within months of Mr. Norgren's arrival in Vaduz, the BIL had opened a representative office

in London and a subsidiary there. BIL Securities, for asset management, investment advice and brokerage services. Further offshoots followed — in Zurich in 1983, in New York in 1984 and most recently in Mr. Norgren's old base, Frankfurt.

At home in Vaduz, Mr. Norgren also brought in new foreign blood, including a West German banker to run BIL's foreign credit division and an Englishman, with years of experience at the Bank of England and Morgan Grenfell, to handle institutional investors. The bank's total assets have jumped from some SwFr2 billion in 1981 when Mr. Norgren took over to well over SwFr3 billion (\$1.1 billion) in mid-1984. But even that rise does not reflect the full pace of expansion in view of the BIL's buoyant service business off the balance sheet.

This expansion is not without its problems and calculated risks. True the Zurich subsidiary, BILfinanz und Verwaltung, run by a senior Swiss banker, has begun well — with booming demand for its investment advice and asset management services, above all from institutional clients. The New York operation is felt likely to develop a lucrative niche for itself too, offering portfolio management in U.S. markets to non-residents. For the D-mark business now concentrated in Frankfurt, the BIL has also drawn a strong team together, snapping up some former senior staff of Sch-

roder, Münchmeyer, Hengst as well as directors from Warburg, Brinkmann, Wirtz and Merck, Finck.

But some insiders feel that in its latest move — building up its London operation into a full branch — the BIL may be biting off more than it can easily chew. It is pointed out that the competition in London is ultrafierce, margins slim and that even with its strong staff the BIL must be prepared for a long and tough haul there.

There is another risk too. The

BIL is going abroad with a high profile, which would be quickly harmed if any scandals (however unconnected with the bank) involving the name of Liechtenstein arose as they did in the 1970s. The BIL, after all, could have followed a more cautious strategy — taking minority stakes in foreign credit institutes and relying more on consensual banking.

But Crown Prince Hans Adam makes clear he wants none of that (and the approach would hardly suit Mr. Norgren's temperament either). The prince emphasises that Liechtenstein wants to show the world it can well succeed in "sensible, steady banking" — and there is more than a note of challenge in his voice. It is the tone of a man prepared to take risks when he feels they are justified. And after all, his family has been doing just that — and surviving rather well — for much longer than most — Financial Times news feature.

Investing where the sun always shines

VIENNA — This March seven countries in East Africa and the Middle East will together present more than \$2,500 million worth of industrial investment projects to a host of potential overseas investors. Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen are meeting in Khartoum for the regions' first joint investment promotion meeting (March 4-8) hosted by the Sudanese government and organised by the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The meeting will provide the chance for project sponsors from the region to meet industrialists, bankers and financiers from Europe, North America and Asia to discuss likely areas of collaboration. These include joint ventures, industrial financing, acquisition of know-how and technology, access to foreign markets, industrial redeployment and training.

Ranging from \$428 million for a steel reinforcing bar plant to \$200,000 for a thermoplastics moulding operation, the 293 projects an offer cover a spectrum of industrial sectors. They include agro-industry, textiles, leather products, mineral processing, building materials, basic metal products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and others. For most investors, there will literally be almost "something for everyone".

Stretching from the Mediterranean Sea, south to Lake Victoria and east across the Arabian Peninsula, the two regions offer an

enormous potential for development of agriculture, fishing, mining and related industries. Blessed by near-perfect weather and the Nile River's 4,160 miles of drainage, they abound in excellent farmland. Opportunities for creating viable agroindustries are immense, given advanced technology coupled with better agriculture and water resource management.

Abundant reserves of copper, chromium, iron ore, gypsum, sulphur and salt, together with some significant deposits of oil and gold, make East Africa and the Middle East an attractive prospect for mineral exploitation and processing for both domestic consumption and export markets.

While labour in the countries of these regions is abundant, transforming their economies from production of primary products to manufacturing of finished goods requires managerial, technical and financial assistance from industrialised nations.

To make this a reality, the Khartoum meeting will aim at attracting advanced technology, as well as the financial and managerial help needed from industrialised nations. As in all UNIDO investment meetings, it will focus on the projects themselves, the object being to afford foreign investors and regional promoters maximum discussion time. A series of face-to-face, individual negotiations will form the core of a week of intensive business discussions — UNIDO press release.

Bulgaria dominates weightlifting

MELBOURNE (R) — Bulgaria completed their domination of the weightlifting competition at the Australia Games Monday winning gold medals in the seven divisions contested.

But the lack of strong competition from Soviet competitors, currently snowed into their training camp, meant no world records were broken at the games, the largest sporting event in Melbourne since the 1956 Olympics. "I didn't think any of our lifters, except maybe Naim Sulejmanov, was capable of breaking a world record here," said Bulgarian coach Ivan Abadjiev. "The lifters were just not well enough prepared."

Only diminutive teenage strongman Sulejmanov, already a multiple world record-holder, attempted a world best but all four of

his efforts Sunday in the 60kg class failed.

"If the full Soviet team had been here the results would have been better and the competition tougher," Abadjiev said.

Bulgaria's 1980 Olympic Champion Asen Zlatev lifted a total of 350 kg to win the 90 kg class Monday from Italians Alfio Sardo (327.5) and Franco Tosi (322.5).

Yanko Georgiev totalled 375 kg in the 110 kg division to win from Australian Tony Hills (357.5) and Vanni Lauzana of Italy (352.5).

Pavel Kuznetsov, the 23-year-old former world champion, picked up the only gold medal for the Soviet team of only three competitors, by winning the 100 kg class.

Kuznetsov snatched 160 kg and clean-and-jerked 202.5 kg for a total of 362.5 kg. His jerk total was almost 40 kg short of his own world record.

Gino Fratangelo, a 26-year-old Australian schoolteacher, took the silver medal with a total of 362.5 kg while New Zealander Kevin Blake hoisted 335 kg for the bronze.

Foster sets record in hurdles

ROSEMONT, Illinois (R) — Greg Foster of the United States set a world indoor record in the 50 metres hurdles Sunday with a time of 6.3 seconds.

Foster's time, recorded during a heat at an athletics meeting here, broke the record of 6.36 seconds set by Renaldo Nehemiah of the United States in 1979.

Chess game 46 underway after postponement

MOSCOW (R) — The World Chess Championship match between title holder Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov got underway again Monday after game 46 was postponed last Friday.

When play began, the Soviet grandmasters chose the ruy lopez opening for only the second time in the series which began last September.

Soviet chess experts said the game was developing into a close struggle. Game 44, the last time the grandmasters used the ruy lopez opening, ended in a draw on move 38 after one of the most exciting encounters of the Marathon match.

Karpov, 33, leads 5-1 in the match and needs one more win to clinch the series. Kasparov, 21, has white in Monday's game at Moscow's Ornat Hall of Columns near Red Square.

Game 46 had been scheduled for Friday but was postponed. A Soviet official said the hall was needed for a meeting of Moscow City Communist Party officials over the weekend.

Liverpool foils York's F.A. Cup aspirations

LONDON (R) — Little York City's ambitions of playing in the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup final were put in perspective Monday when they were paired with European champions Liverpool in the fifth round draw.

Ever since Keith Houchoe netted a last-minute penalty to earn the third division strugglers a fourth round victory over Arsenal on Saturday, York fans have been luxuriating in the prospect of attending the final on May 18.

But Wembley's famous Twin Towers receded far into the distance with the news that Liverpool will be their next opponents, and even with home advantage, York's dream is likely to come to an abrupt end on February 16.

Inexplicably, Liverpool have a poor record in the F.A. Cup — their only triumphs coming in 1965 and 1974 — but their 1-0 victory over Tottenham Sunday saw them installed as joint favourites with city neighbours Everton.

Everton, too, should have little trouble in reaching the quarter-

final after being drawn at home against fourth division Darlington or Telford, the sole remaining minor league side.

Manchester United were not so fortunate. They face the prospect of visiting either Oxford or Blackburn, two of the clubs in the forefront of the division two promotion race and just the kind of opposition United dread.

Oxford, then in the third division, beat United in last season's League Cup while Blackburn boast a glorious F.A. Cup history.

The draw produced a series of intriguing clashes, notably the all-first division games between near-neighbours Luton and Watford, and Ipswich's home tie with dark horses Sheffield Wednesday.

Everton and Liverpool head the betting list at 7-2, followed by Manchester United at 6-1, and Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton on 8-1.

York's followers may feel tempted to have a wager at 200-1 but the odds of 9-2 offered for a Liverpool-Everton final look a more realistic bet.

Minister proposes tax exemption for sport donors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Youth and sport circles in the country have welcomed recommendations by the Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and the Income Tax Department Director General Salman Al Tarawneh to the cabinet to exempt private companies and institutions from income tax on their donations to youth and sport clubs, federations and institutions.

They said that this decision will have positive reflections on youth and sport movement in the country and will promote and develop sport activities in Jordan.

The clubs and federations, which include thousands of youths under their umbrellas, are anxiously waiting for the cabinet's decision in this respect to embody the important interaction between youth and the conscious leadership, the circles said. They said once the recommendations are approved by the cabinet, it will be a great opportunity for our national institutions, banks, companies and individuals to offer support to sport movement in Jordan.

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WATER AUTHORITY RAMTHA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT NO. R-1/19/85

1- The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been pre-qualified as General and First Class Water and Sewerage Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bid for the supply and construction of the Ramtha Contract No. R1, Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems. The project consists of the supply and construction of about 21 km of water mains ranging in diameter from 80 mm to 300 mm, supply and construction of about 3 km of water line ranging in diameter from 1/2 - 1 1/2 inches and supply and construction of about 52 km of sewers ranging in diameter from 150 mm to 700 mm.

2- A prebid conference will be held on Thursday February 26, 1985 beginning at 0900 hours at the office of the Water Authority.

3- On Feb. 26, 1985 contractors shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm requested in the Instructions to Bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.

4- The bids are due no later than 1200 noon, Jordan local time on March 16, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.

5- Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jebel Hussein
Nabulus Street
P.O. Box 2412,
Amman, Jordan
Telephone 666111
Telex 22439 WAJ Jo.

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 200,000 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 100,000 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check.

President,
Eng. M.S. Kilani

TIME

EUROPE

AWKWARD ANNIVERSARY (Europe debates how to celebrate V-E Day)

STANDING FAST IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC (France to maintain strength in New Caledonia)

TELLY HO (House of Lords admits television)

THE POPE ON THE ROAD (Cover story on papal travels)

Lloyd beats Navratilova in Virginia Slims tennis match

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Chris Evert Lloyd of the United States, playing what she termed the best tennis of her career, whipped Martina Navratilova 6-2, 6-4 in the final of the Virginia Slims of Florida Women's Tennis Tournament Sunday to end more than two years of frustrating losses against her nemesis.

Lloyd broke Navratilova's serve in the first and third games and never trailed on her own serve in the first set at the Sheraton Royal Biscayne Racquet Club.

In the second set, Lloyd scored three service breaks, including love games in the seventh and ninth against Navratilova's serve. She won her third match point when Navratilova looped a forehand long.

"I was a little afraid after the first set," Lloyd said at a joyful news conference after the 66-minute match, "because I don't think I've ever played that well in my life."

"My passing shots and my return of serve were the best ever, and I have to do that to beat Martina."

Navratilova, ranked No. 1, had beaten No. 2-ranked Lloyd 13 consecutive times in the past two years. The last time Lloyd beat Navratilova was in the final of the December 1982 Australian Open, where she won 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

Lloyd appeared to have closed the gap between herself and Navratilova when she pushed her friendly foe before losing 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the U.S. Open last fall. In Sunday's match, it was hard to tell which player was supposed to be No. 1.

While racing to a 4-0 lead, Lloyd played nearly flawlessly from her baseline perched and Navratilova struggled with her serve.

Lloyd said she thought the turning point in the match came early in the second set, when she fell behind 0-30 on her own serve only to rally and win the game.

The two traded service breaks from that point until Lloyd broke through for a 5-4 lead with a whizzing passing shot off one of Navratilova's few good first serves.

Lloyd took a quick 40-15 lead on her serve, but allowed Navratilova to come back and force the game to deuce. But Navratilova hit a relatively easy volley wide and then stroked a forehand long to give Lloyd the match.

Navratilova, now tied with Lloyd 31-31 in their lifetime series, had said Saturday that she thought she could beat Lloyd even if she had a bad day.

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Omani, UAE businessmen agree to end trade row

MUSCAT (R) — Businessmen from Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday reached a tentative agreement to pave the way for an end to a long-standing dispute over imports of UAE cement into Oman.

A two-day meeting of the chambers of commerce from the two countries also made progress towards resolving a dispute over the sale of cars to UAE citizens by Omani agents operating in the border oasis of Buraimi.

Omani merchants accuse the neighbouring UAE of dumping their surplus cement on the Omani market at unrealistic prices. The UAE producers complain of a 20 per cent import duty imposed by Oman to protect its fledgling cement industry.

Under the tentative agreement announced Monday the UAE producers will meet to agree on a standard price for their cement exports to Oman.

The Omani side will send them an annual estimate of the amount Oman needs to make up the shortfall in domestic production, effectively setting a quota.

Oman has a cement production capacity of 850,000 tonnes a year compared with consumption of about 1.2 million.

If the system works satisfactorily, the Omanis will recommend that their government abolish the 20 per cent tariff, bringing Oman into line with other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The six-member GCC has removed customs barriers between member states but Oman was granted a partial exemption to allow its local industries to catch up with GCC competitors.

On the car trade, the chambers of commerce agreed to bring together agents from both countries to work out an acceptable arrangement, officials said.

UAE agents have complained that the Omanis have been taking away up to 20 per cent of commerce officials told Reuters most of the cars were sold to customers from Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The trade talks also discussed UAE complaints that the Omani customs authorities cause unnecessary delays to imports of fresh food in border areas.

Czechoslovakia reports rise in economic growth

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovakia, one of the most highly industrialised states in the Soviet Bloc, Sunday reported a further rise in economic growth in 1984.

Gross national income, a measure similar to gross national product, rose by 3.2 per cent, a report by the Federal Statistics Office issued by the official Ceteka News Agency showed. In 1983 it grew by 2.7 per cent.

Industrial production rose by 3.9 per cent, more than the 2.5 per cent planned, the report said. In 1983 industrial output grew by three per cent.

The fastest growth was registered in electrical and general engineering, paper, light industries such as glass and china, and medical equipment, the report said.

Agricultural output rose by 3.6 per cent in 1984 compared with a 2.2 per cent rise in 1983. The grain harvest was a record 12 million tonnes and production of sugar beet and potatoes, hit by drought in 1983, also rose.

Venezuela invests in gas to sustain its oil exports

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela is investing \$2 billion in natural gas to sustain its oil exports in the face of rising energy consumption at home.

The government last month gave the go-ahead for the Nurgas project, an 800 kilometre gas distribution network which will meet Venezuela's domestic needs well into the 21st century.

A big oil exporter for 60 years, Venezuela has always had large reserves of associated gas, most of which was burned off until the 1970s. Recent exploration has shown the existence of huge deposits of gas not associated with oil.

"We could be sitting on at least two Algas here," said Mr. Frank Alcock, president of the oil operating subsidiary Corpoven.

Proven gas reserves are officially estimated as equivalent to 10 billion barrels of oil, placing Venezuela in the top 10 in the world, but industry officials say there could be as much as three times this amount.

Unlike Algeria and Mexico, Venezuela is looking at natural gas mainly as a substitute for domestically consumed oil.

The \$1.2 billion Nurgas project, being carried out by Corpoven, is expected to free for export at least 120,000 barrels a day of oil now consumed by domestic power stations.

Natural gas will be used more in industry and possibly as fuel for vehicles, but prices must be worked out first, Mr. Alcock said.

"In Venezuela gas sells for \$4 a barrel, just about breakeven point, while in the United States it goes for \$20," he said.

Gas has had a long history of neglect in Venezuela, and from 1920 until the 1970s, while the oil business was in private hands, most was flared uselessly into the air.

Lebanese bankers to support pound

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese bankers have reached a gentlemen's agreement to prevent further dramatic falls of the Lebanese pound against foreign currencies, dealers said Monday.

The pound drifted higher in cautious and quiet trading Monday, closing at 10.65 pounds to the dollar after opening at 10.85/11.00.

The pound lost and then recovered 10 per cent of its value against the dollar on Friday and Saturday. Dealers blamed the drop on speculative demand for dollars by banks against a background of political and economic uncertainty.

Civil war and Israeli occupation of South Lebanon have caused grave economic problems, while the political situation was aggravated at the weekend by a resignation threat by Education Minister Selim Hoss from the national unity cabinet brought on a fresh political crisis.

The bankers' association Sunday night offered to take unspecified measures to curb speculation after contacts with the president, senior cabinet ministers and the governor of the central bank.

"People are not buying dollars," said a dealer. "After last night's meeting there is a gentlemen's agreement between banks not to speculate. Dollar demand is being satisfied from banks' private positions."

Scargill reaffirms tough stand

LONDON (R) — The leader of Britain's striking miners, Mr. Arthur Scargill, said Monday there would be no sell-out by the union in talks with coal chiefs Tuesday on reopening peace negotiations.

Mr. Scargill, interviewed on British Commercial Television, brushed aside newspaper suggestions that he was losing the 46-week-old strike over state coal board plans to close money-losing pits.

"There will be no betrayal by this union," he said. "You can rest assured that there will be no selling down the river."

The board, anxious to cut a government subsidy of more than a billion sterling (dollars) a year, has said that any peace formula must recognise its right to close loss-making pits.

The union has said throughout that only unsafe or exhausted pits should close but has come under increasing pressure as more men have drifted back to work, joining those who defied the strike from the outset.

Mr. Scargill refused to respond to the board's tough stand, saying simply that the union would go into the talks-on-talks without pre-conditions.

British interest rates rise to 14% as sterling slumps

LONDON (R) — British interest rates rose Monday to their highest level for three years as the pound sterling slumped to new average lows on foreign exchange markets because of uncertainty over oil prices.

The rise in bank base lending rates to 14 per cent from 12 per cent was led by Britain's biggest commercial bank Barclays Bank and quickly endorsed by the country's central bank. Other commercial banks were expected to follow.

The latest rise takes interest rates 4½ percentage points higher than they were just 2½ weeks ago before sterling started to slide rapidly, forcing the government to act to defend it.

Currency traders said sterling had dropped to a record London trading low of \$1.1060 on a news report from Geneva indicating sharp discord among OPEC oil ministers in their efforts to prop up world prices.

Sterling is vulnerable to signs of lower oil prices because Britain is a major producer.

At midday in London, the Bank of England said the sterling index, a measure of the pound's value now against 17 other currencies compared with 1975, stood at 70.3 per cent.

The lowest since the index was started.

After the interest rate increase, which had been signalled by higher lending rates in the domestic money market, sterling recovered by over half a cent to \$1.1130.

Sterling was hit by a wave of speculative selling in mid-January when reports circulated that the government would do nothing to stop it falling to parity against the dollar.

That prompted the government to force interest rates 1½ points higher on Jan. 14 and change course to support intervention in world currency markets — a move endorsed by finance ministers from the five leading Western industrial democracies in Washington just over a week ago.

"A very grave crisis"

Monday's further interest-rate rise was seized on by the ruling Conservatives' political opponents as evidence that gov-

ernment economic management is in serious disarray.

Opposition Labour Party spokesman Mr. Roy Hattersley said: "The government's financial policy is in ruins."

Mr. Paul Neill, chief economist with leading stockbrokers, Phillips and Drew, described Monday's events as a "very grave crisis" for the government.

Share prices on the London stock exchange suffered their biggest losses in a day on record. At 1300 GMT the Financial Times 30-share index of leading industrial shares was 43 points lower at 959.8. On Friday it closed at 1,002.8.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has recently insisted the pound is undervalued, particularly against the dollar.

The government at first stood aside earlier this month while sterling dropped, presumably welcoming the improved competitiveness of British goods in world export markets.

But it changed course because of fears that too great a fall in sterling would undermine its anti-inflation programme by sharply raising the costs of imported raw materials. It now appears to be trying to hold the pound above \$1.10.

OPEC conference on pricing crisis opens with Oteiba walkout

GENEVA (R) — Conflict over oil pricing policy marked the first session of an emergency Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) conference Monday, along with a walkout by a senior minister and a ban on a leading newspaper correspondent.

In conversation with journalists before the meeting began, the ministers of Algeria and Libya were adamant that they would oppose any change in OPEC's "benchmark" oil price of \$29 per barrel.

But Saudi Arabian Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said the benchmark was "not sacred" and conference president Dr. Subroto of Indonesia said discussion of the market was in the agenda.

Lack of unanimity on this vital point was likely to make progress difficult on adjusting the organisation's overall price structure — the issue on which the meeting was called.

Only one hour after the 13 ministers began their closed negotiations, however, Dr. Mana Said Al Oteiba, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), emerged from the conference hall and said he was going home.

Visibly angry, he accused Nigerian Minister Tam David-West of "stabbing OPEC in the back" saying Nigeria was "undermining the pricing structure" by producing 1.7 million barrels of oil per day, well above its agreed quota.

The meeting recessed, and Professor David-West later left the

conference hotel with Sheikh Yamani to see Dr. Oteiba somewhere in Geneva.

Both of them made light of the incident.

"There was misunderstanding, an English expression that was not understood. He thought something, and then it was clarified, and it's over," said Sheikh Yamani.

He and Professor David-West later returned to the hotel together with an apparently mollified Oteiba. It was not clear whether the incident was over, but Dr. Oteiba confirmed that he would be attending the sessions.

Oil traders said the walkout knocked North Sea crude oil prices on the European spot market. Brent prices dropped some 30 cents per barrel and did not recover despite Dr. Oteiba's return.

Speaking before Monday's talks began, Dr. Oteiba had said the minister would consider three scenarios for cutting the price gap, or differentials, between light and heavy grades of oil.

Of these, he said he favoured a middle road, reducing the maximum gap, currently about \$4, by nearly half.

Producers of light crudes want this narrowing to be achieved by a sharp increase in the price of the cheaper heavy grades, currently favoured on world markets.

Algeria's Belkacem Nabi told Reuters he would oppose any corresponding reduction in his own country's extralight grades, but this insistence was bound to be opposed by heavy producers.

Sheikh Yamani said what was important was the average price of OPEC oil rather than that of a single crude. This meeting would not change that average by more than a few cents, he added.

Such minor adjustment would, however, do little to solve OPEC's problem that the official prices of most of its light oils are higher than free market rates.

Failure to react to this reality is seen by analysts here as certain to push Britain, whose light oil competes with OPEC's, into abandoning fixed contract rates altogether and relating its oil prices to the free market.

Before the brief morning session began, OPEC officials had barred entry to the hall to the Wall Street Journal's oil correspondent, Mr. Youssef Ibrahim.

Mr. Ibrahim's accreditation was withheld over an article in the newspaper last week describing a lavish life style he said was enjoyed by oil ministers, including some whose countries face economic austerity due to weak oil prices.

"The feeling is that he has gone beyond the covering of oil conferences and entered into private lives," said conference chairman Dr. Subroto of Indonesia.

Some other reporters took off their security badges in protest and were also refused admission to a brief public session before the ministerial conference began in earnest.

Mr. Ibrahim told Reuters it was not clear how long the ban on him would last.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed above lowest levels, having slumped to show largest ever falls after the four major U.K. banks increased their base lending rates by two points to a three year high.

Dealers noted some bargain hunting but said that the market had earlier over-reacted and was due for a correction.

The F.T. 30 share index at 1400 GMT fell 44.1 points to 958.7 before rallying to 970.7 at 1500 GMT for a net fall of 31.1 points. This index closed at a new high of 1,024.5 last Tuesday. The broader based FTSE 100 share index at 1553 was down 26 points at 1,262.0 having touched a low of 1,241.7.

ICI showed a net fall of 6p at 822 having touched 812, BTR was 10p off at 659 after 645 and Courtaulds was 8p lower at 302 after 135.

B.P. moved to 496 from 516 before steadying to 505 in oils where Shell was a net 11p down at 705. Banks were as much as 10p above lows leaving Midland with a 5p fall at 344. Insurances followed the general trend with General Accident closing 10 cheaper at 528.

Losses in government bonds ranging to 3½ points were cut to about 2½ points by the close. Gold shares stayed mixed throughout the session and North Americans firmed.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.1090/1100	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3249/52	Canadian dollars
	3.1685/95	West German marks
	3.5815/30	Dutch guilders
	2.6637/47	Swiss francs
	63.35/39	Belgian francs
	9.6850/6900	French francs
	1952.0/4.0	Italian lire
	254.15/25	Japanese yen
	9.0450/550	Swedish crowns
	9.1750/1850	Norwegian crowns
	11.3975/3075	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	297.60/298.10	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 29, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early morning changes can actually work out to your advantage since they are followed by an opportunity to use your ingenuity to adopt a new improved course of action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get that new plan formulated so that you can handle all of your business affairs much better.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have reached a stalemate with an associate so compromise is the only answer to save the relationship.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An inspired thought early can help to make daily routines much better and easier, so utilize it, and become more productive.

MOON CHILDREN (Jan. 22 to Jul. 21) Be more willing to go along with the ideas of a friend even though you had made other plans for entertainment.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study the conditions at home and figure out how best to improve them with the assistance of family ties.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Guard against an accident or argument in the morning, and then you will be able to enjoy congenials.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be sure not to be pushed into some situation you do not like in the morning, and later you have better judgment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel inclined to make radical changes where personal relationships are concerned, but this would only make matters worse.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel frustrated and want to upset the applecart in the morning, but keep cool and after lunch all works out better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do not go along with that financial idea which a friend offers you since it could lead to trouble.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Not a good day to get into ventures that are full of risk, so keep busy at safe routines. Show that you are altruistic.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't permit some worrisome matter to keep you from making the contacts that can bring you greater success.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will possess great magnetism and have a strength of purpose and not be easily swayed by others. Teach to listen carefully to others before reaching a decision, because once the mind is made up, nothing can change it. One who could do well at handling money.

THE Daily Crossword by Albert L. Misenko

ACROSS

1. Money
7. Attractions
13. Simba's mate
14. Monstrously up
15. Perfect person
17. Go forward
18. Frank
19. Money
21. Sets one against another
22. Traveler equipment
23. Varnish
24. Ingredient
25. Pace
27. John Jacob or Mary
29. Explosive sound
30. Outfit by evening
32. White wine
34. Pit of temper
36. Willingly
37. Airbound
41. Pegged down
45. Come in third
46. Packs cargo
48. Domesticated
49. By means of
50. Fish eggs
51. Fairy queen
52. Consumes
54. Lollipop
57. Sailed with pleasure
59. Antique curlicue
61. Destructive unit
62. Complete
63. Distance to be sounded
64. Entertain sumptuously

DOWN

1. Hal
2. Holder of
3. Unorthodox beliefs
4. Ark of films
4. Outfit
5. Implant
6. Void a marriage
7. Carbonaceous material
8. Externat covering
9. Part of speech: abbr.
10. Harvest
11. Teacher's aide
12. — pump
13. Cadge
15. All Baba's magic word
20. Felines
26. Pitch
27. Sponsorship
28. Archaeologist's concern
29. Become
31. Moved quickly
33. Social
35. Platforms
37. Outlook
38. Cut through
39. Inflict great pain
40. Curved point
43. Layered
45. Study
46. Lower in rank
47. Noble was one
53. Fool
54. Adam's son
55. Identical
56. — monster
58. Rest
60. Put

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Your wife left a message: Hang on, only 99 hours, four minutes and two seconds until the weekend."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AGGYB

NISHY

LITLLE

YEKTUR

THE BIGGEST PART OF THE FISH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHOKER PURGE LANCER HUMBLE

Answer: Something a woman finds easier to do with her face than with her mind—MAKEUP

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



India's summit calls for nuclear deployment ban

NEW DELHI (R) — India's six-nation disarmament summit adopted a joint declaration Monday calling for an immediate ban on the testing, development and deployment of nuclear weapons.

The declaration finalised by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the presidents of Argentina, Mexico and Tanzania and the prime ministers of Sweden and Greece also appealed for a halt to the militarisation of space, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The six leaders met in a two-hour closed session to consider a draft declaration prepared by their officials.

An Indian government spokesman said the conference was also expected to decide how best to continue the disarmament initiative which they launched last May.

PTI said the six leaders would launch a programme to mobilise public support for their bid to halt the nuclear arms race.

Ambassadors of the five nuclear powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — would be told of the

peace declaration by Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Khusheed Alam Khan, it said.

Paramilitary commandos armed with automatic weapons guarded the meeting hall called Vigyan Bhavan or "House of Knowledge" while marksmen with rifles kept watch on nearby rooftops.

The spokesman told Reuters that Mr. Alam Khan would meet the five ambassadors later Monday. He said Monday's declaration reiterated an appeal for disarmament made by the six nations last May.

But he said a new element was the call for a ban on the development and deployment of nuclear weapons in outer space "so that space can be saved as a frontier for peace."

Streets around the meeting hall were sealed off and barricaded were put up at entrances to the

complex where India hosted the Commonwealth heads of government conference and Non-Aligned Movement summit, both in 1983.

"Security is at the same level as the previous two conferences and is just as intense although there are fewer people taking part," the spokesman said.

Monday's meeting marks Mr. Gandhi's debut on the international stage. India's youngest leader took office shortly after his mother and predecessor Indira was assassinated by two Sikh bodyguards in October.

On Saturday the Hindustan Times newspaper said four assassination squads from Punjab had penetrated the capital on a mission to kill Mr. Gandhi and India's president, Zail Singh.

PTI said Sunday Indian security forces had arrested more than 30 Sikh extremists in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, adjoining Punjab state.

Islamabad has denied Indian charges that extremists fighting for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab had been armed and trained in Pakistan.



SHUTTLE LANDS: The space shuttle Discovery for the Department of Defence, at Kennedy Space Centre Sunday (AP wirephoto)

25 die in Japanese bus accident

NAGANO, Japan (R) — Twenty-five people, including 14 women students, were killed Monday when a bus carrying a party of skiers skidded off an icy road and plunged into a reservoir in this central Japanese city, police said.

Eight male students, two drivers

and a clerk were also found dead inside the submerged bus, police said.

The remaining 21 people on board the bus managed to swim through the icy water to safety or were rescued, but eight of them were being treated at hospital for injuries and bruises, police said.

Koji Ono, a 21-year-old student, told reporters at a local hospital: "most of us were sleeping. I heard a big bang then the next moment our bus was falling."

The students were on their way to a ski resort, police said. The cause of the accident was being investigated, they added.

Gang fighting flares after murder of crime boss

TOKYO (R) — Gang warfare has broken out in Japan after the murder of the nation's reputed top crime boss, police reported Monday.

The gang chief, 51-year-old Masahisa Takenaka, was gunned down by three or four men in the lobby of an Osaka apartment block on Saturday night. He died Sunday night in hospital. Police said Mr. Takenaka's two chief aides also were shot dead.

Takenaka took over last June as leader of the Yamaguchi Syndicate which police believe contains some 13,000 members. Police sources said his killers were thought to belong to the rival Ichikawa gang, a splinter group which broke with Yamaguchi when Takenaka took over.

Police said one suspect arrested in the Takenaka shooting was a prominent Ichikawa leader.

6 Kanak rebels held for sabotage

NOUMEA (R) — Six members of New Caledonia's pro-independence rebel group have been arrested and three admitted sabotaging nickel mining equipment, court sources said Monday.

The three Kanaks from the group seeking independence from France for the troubled Pacific territory sabotaged most of the heavy trucking equipment at Societe Nickel in Kouaoua, the island's most important mine, five days ago, the sources added.

They were charged with "organised damage and destruction" of the equipment. The three other men were charged with aiding and abetting them.

Kouaoua was the territory's only remaining large supplier of ore since the mines at Thio were closed after Melanesian activists set up road blocks there in November.

India hands over Sri Lankan Navy crew

NEW DELHI (R) — India Monday released seven Sri Lankans seized along with their naval patrol craft earlier this month, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The Sri Lankans were detained on Jan. 11 and Indian authorities said they had entered India's territorial waters in the narrow Palk Strait separating the two countries.

Sri Lanka denied the charge and demanded the vessel's return.

The news agency said the seven men were handed over to Acting Deputy High Commissioner V. Jayanathan in the south Indian city of Madras.

PTI did not mention the Sri Lankan boat.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shaul Hameed told parliament in Colombo four days ago that his government had secured the release of the craft and its crew.

The same day a Colombo court freed 17 Indian fishermen charged with illegal fishing in Sri Lankan territorial waters.

India has denied Sri Lankan charges that Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in the north of the island are being trained in southern India.

Colombo has denied accusations that its security forces have attacked and, in some cases, killed Indian fishermen.

Shuttle ends military mission

HOUSTON (R) — The space shuttle discovery completed its secret military mission in good condition, giving the U.S. space agency a fine start in its 1985 "shuttle-a-month" programme, agency officials reported.

There's no major damage at all," spokeswoman Lisa Malone said after Discovery landed at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida Sunday following a three-day flight.

Now a veteran of three missions, Discovery has not had any serious problems with the peculiar tiles shielding its underbelly.

The tiles on other shuttle vehicles suffered damage from the heat of re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

The space agency and the air force issued no post-landing statement on the latest mission, refusing all comment about reports that Discovery deployed a satellite to intercept Soviet electronic transmissions.

The air force said only that Discovery carried a booster rocket of the type that propels communications satellites into orbit.

In its sole comment during the flight, the air force said the rocket "was deployed from the shuttle Discovery and successfully met its mission objectives."

Space agency officials declined to say whether the rocket, which malfunctioned two years ago in its only previous test, had worked this time. It is crucial to the success of four of this year's flights.

Discovery, which recovered two stranded communications satellites from space last November, now gets a rest.

Next month's mission is assigned to its sister ship, Challenger, which was removed from the secret mission when the adhesive on 4,000 of its tiles had to be replaced.

Filipino police clash with drivers

MANILA (R) — At least nine people were injured when police clashed with public transport drivers who went on strike Monday to back demands for a cut in petrol prices.

Witnesses said the drivers, supported by students, priests, and nuns, put up barricades in major streets in Manila and hurled rocks and home-made bombs against police baton charges.

More than 50 people have been arrested in several parts of Manila since the strike started at dawn, said a spokesman for the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organisations (ACTO), the organisers of the strike.

"But the strike will go on indefinitely until a satisfactory and meaningful solution to our demands are met," ACTO Chairman Bonifacio de Luna told reporters. Drivers want the cost of petrol cut to the level of last October, the last time prices of petroleum products were raised by up to 17 per cent.

ATCO, which groups drivers and operators of the privately owned "Jeepney" mini-buses, claim a membership of 200,000. There were no immediate reports of similar strikes in the provinces.

The streets in some parts of Manila looked almost deserted as the strikers put up barricades in a bid to force other Jeepneys to join the strike. But several Jeepneys were seen in major streets where armed policemen guarded intersections.

The Jeepney stoppage coincided with the strike called by school teachers who stayed home to demand pay increases.

Few voters turn out in Bhopal

BHOPAL, India (R) — Voting took place Monday for a parliamentary seat in the central Indian city of Bhopal, where last month's general election was postponed because of a gas leak which killed more than 2,500 people.

Election officials told reporters that, an hour and a half before the polls closed, only a quarter of those eligible had voted.

Several pressure groups in Bhopal had urged a boycott of the election to protest at what they called inadequate relief for victims of the gas.

Black flags flew near the Union Carbide plant which leaked the gas on Dec. 3, causing the world's worst industrial accident, witnesses said.

Reindeer starve as food freezes

LULEA, Sweden (R) — Thousands of reindeer in Lapland are starving because their forage froze in a midwinter cold spell, an agricultural board official said Monday.

Borje Petters, inspector at the board's office in northern Sweden, said 30,000 reindeer in four Lapish villages were in imminent danger and large numbers would have to be slaughtered during the spring. "The situation is close to catastrophic," he told Reuters.

He said the reindeer were being given emergency feed but added that this was extremely expensive, meaning that each animal would have eaten its entire commercial value by summer.

Missionary, wife killed in Philippines

MANILA (R) — An Australian missionary and his American wife were murdered Sunday in the northern resort city of Baguio, Australian embassy sources said here Monday.

They said Michael Shelling and his wife were found dead in a pool of blood but their two children, aged one and two, had not been harmed. The embassy is sending a member of its staff to Baguio, 190 kilometres north of Manila, to take charge of the children and get a full report on the murder.

Manila newspapers said Shelling and his wife Janice, who worked for an organisation called Youth With A Mission (YWAM), had gaping neck and head wounds. Two or more people broke into their house and attacked them with bolos (swords) but spared the children, the newspapers said, adding that robbery appeared to be the motive.

Rats flourish in their year

TAIPEI (R) — Rats in Taipei had a prosperous year in the Chinese Lunar Year of the Rat and they now outnumber the city's 2.3 million people four to one, the city council said Monday. A council official told reporters the rat population doubled last year mainly because many Chinese considered it unlucky to kill them during their year. He said an extermination campaign would begin next month when the Chinese usher in the year of the Ox.

Reagan yearned for swashbuckling role

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan says that during his acting days, he yearned to play a swashbuckling character like that of actor Errol Flynn, but couldn't seem to escape being cast in light comedies. "When I was making pictures I had a running battle with Warner Bros.," Reagan told the current issue of People Magazine. "They were successful pictures, but I wanted to do some more outdoor pictures. I wanted to play Errol Flynn type of role," Mr. Reagan said in an interview conducted several days before his Jan. 20 inauguration.

On another topic, Mr. Reagan was asked about his recent reunion with his son Michael following a reported estrangement. Responded Mr. Reagan: "Our problem was mainly one of distance, and so when we eliminated the distance, we eliminated the problem. There was much love in the room with the two families together, and the problems were resolved."

'Amadeus' wins 4 Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Film Amadeus, by British playwright Peter Shaffer, led the field with four Golden Globe awards at the annual Hollywood ceremony, including one for best dramatic film. The British film A Passage to India, was second with three awards, including a Globe for Dame Peggy Ashcroft, a veteran of the British stage, for best supporting actress. Among other awards, presented each year by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, British actor Dudley Moore was chosen best actor in a comedy for Micki and Maude, Sally Field was named best dramatic actress for Places in the Heart and Kathleen Turner was chosen best actress in a musical or comedy for Romancing the Stone.

In an ironic twist, Tom Hulce, who played Mozart in Amadeus, lost out to F. Murray Abraham, who played rival composer Antonio Salieri, as best dramatic actor. Hulce received the award on behalf of the absent Abraham before a star-studded audience, commenting: "It is only fitting Mozart should accept."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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USE ALL OF YOUR ASSETS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ J10
♥ J986
♦ KQ76
♣ 63
EAST
♠ Q9765
♥ A107
♦ 32
♣ 1098

SOUTH
♠ AK
♥ K32
♦ J108
♣ AQJ52

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠.

Usually, you have to develop only one suit for your contract. On occasion, you might need a second suit as well. But South felt his five-card suit made his hand too strong for an opening bid of one no trump. Although his jump rebid of two no trump was not forcing, North had just enough to go on to game.

As happens when both

partners bid aggressively, the final contract was tenuous. Even if declarer could establish and run the diamonds, he would still need some club tricks for his contract. Then there was the chance a defender with three diamonds to the ace could kill dummy by holding up. Declarer's solution was elegant.

He won the opening lead and led the jack of diamonds, overtaking on the board with the queen. When East held up, declarer switched his attention to clubs. The jack of clubs was finessed successfully, and declarer now reverted to diamonds, overtaking his 10 with the king. East had to hold up again to prevent declarer from bringing in the suit, but now declarer was on the table to repeat the club finesse.

He still needed a slice of luck. The finesse of the queen of clubs won as expected, and declarer laid down the ace of clubs. When both defenders followed, everything had come up roses. Declarer scored two spade tricks, two diamonds and five clubs — all he had contracted for.

CIA claims lack of control over Nicaraguan rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Officials of the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan say the lack of CIA control over the rebels it backs in Nicaragua have been made evident by Honduras charges that the rebels have murdered political dissidents in Honduras.

The officials, who insisted on anonymity, said the Honduran allegations caught the CIA off guard. They said rebel leaders had assured the CIA that a key military officer allegedly implicated in the slayings had been expelled two years ago from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

The U.S.-backed force, known by its Spanish initials, FDN, has been fighting for four years to overthrow the leftist Sandanista government in Nicaragua.

U.S. officials expressed surprise last week when informed that, according to statements from two rebel leaders, the officer, Col. Ricardo "Chino" Lau, had not been purged but at least until last year was still with the group.

"If Lau was there after January 1983, it was clearly deceptive," said one official familiar with U.S. efforts to rid the FDN of Lau and other National Guard officers who fought for longtime dictator Ana-

stasio Somoza before his overthrow in 1979.

The official said FDN leaders, opposed to the purge, apparently decided to "fool" the Americans.

Another official said the incident showed that while the CIA had direct command and control over certain operations, such as the mining of Nicaragua's harbours, the agency had only limited influence over the FDN's internal operations.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Edgar Chamorro, former FDN propaganda chief, said Lau was never ousted from the rebel group, as the CIA was told, but was simply moved from his post as the FDN's intelligence officer to head of the rebels' counter-intelligence unit.

In the new post, Lau reported directly to Enrique Bermudez, the FDN's top commander and another ex-National Guard officer, Mr. Chamorro said.

Mr. Chamorro said he believed Lau's continued presence was known to some CIA personnel in the field, despite the U.S. claims of deception. Lau's current whereabouts could not be ascertained, and CIA spokesman George Launder refused to discuss the matter.

Lau's name surfaced inside the

administration this month in connection with a Honduran military investigation of the killings and disappearances of about 250 opponents of the pro-American Honduran government.

Honduran sources close to the investigation have said that since 1980, Nicaraguan rebels had killed 15 to 18 dissidents on behalf of the Honduran military. One source said Lau was involved in some of those actions.

U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said last week that the administration had "no information which would substantiate" the Honduran charges.

Last Wednesday, the CIA circulated a secret report disputing the press accounts and quoting some Honduran military officials as denying their investigation would implicate the FDN.

FDN spokesman Bosco Maramoros also denied the allegations. He added that he believed Lau was removed during an early reorganisation of the FDN, which was formed in 1981, but he would not provide dates for Lau's involvement with the FDN.

One U.S. official said the CIA began pressing FDN leaders to

N. Zealand to seek details on warships

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand, which has banned port calls by nuclear vessels, Monday decided to seek more information on the proposed visit here of a United States warship.

Prime Minister David Lange told a news conference the cabinet Monday discussed the American request for a port call. The request had been accompanied by details of the vessel but the cabinet decided it wanted more information, he said.

The Labour Party, which came to power in elections last July upset the United States, a partner with Australia and New Zealand in the ANZUS defence treaty, by saying it would refuse to admit nuclear warships.

The policy was also criticised by Australia which allows visit by nuclear-powered ships and those capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Mr. Lange said reports from the New Zealand Department of Defence and the External Intelligence Bureau failed to convince him that the warship would not carry nuclear weapons.

"We will be, in effect, seeking to be absolutely confident that the vessel is not nuclear armed," Mr. Lange said.

"If I am not confident, it (the warship) will not come."

Mr. Lange also said he would put further questions to the Americans Tuesday through the U.S. embassy in Wellington but declined to say who initiated the meeting.

"I will disclose that after the meeting," Mr. Lange said.

The prime minister also said the vessel named by Washington was not nuclear-powered and was not the USS Robison as stated by a Wellington newspaper Monday.

Asked whether Washington had proposed any way out of the impasse, Mr. Lange said there had been some suggestions. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Lange said he could decide on the visit without Washington changing its policy of refusing to say which ships were nuclear-armed.

"It would be easy to come up with a logical conclusion," he said. "There are vessels which are not capable of nuclear armament."